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Last Update: December 30, 1999

r8webmaster@epa.gov



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This page originally created: Monday, February 3, 2003



Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Public Comment Period Announced for Shattuck Chemical

For Immediate Release - December 23, 1999

Barry Levene, EPA (303) 312-6807
Jim Hanley, EPA (303) 312-6725
Sonya Pennock, EPA (303) 312-6600

DENVER -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites the public to comment on its proposal for amending the cleanup plan at the Shattuck Chemical Company Superfund Site, 1805 So. Bannock Street, Denver. EPA's preferred alternative is to remove the solidified and stabilized soils at the site to a licensed disposal facility or to a licensed recycling facility.

EPA uses the Proposed Plan process to evaluate cleanup alternatives and to recommend a cleanup action. The public comment period begins today and extends until February 1, 2000. EPA will consider all public comments on the Proposed Plan before making a final decision.

The public may comment on the Proposed Plan in the following ways:

A public meeting set for 7:00 PM, January 20, at the John Collins United Methodists Church, 2320 S. Bannock Street. At the meeting EPA will provide information about the Plan and receive oral or written comments.

Written comments may be mailed to:

Jim Hanley, US EPA, 8EPR-SR

999 18th St. Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Written comments may also be sent by email to: shattuck-comments@epa.gov

Copies of the Proposed Plan and other pertinent documents are available for review at the following locations:

Denver Public Library
Decker Branch
1501 S. Logan St.
Denver, CO

EPA Superfund Records Center
999 18th St. (visitors check in on the third floor South Tower)
Denver, CO
Phone the Record Center for help at 303-312-7840.

In addition EPA maintains a Web site with information about the Shattuck site's Proposed Plan:
<http://www.epa.gov/region08/info/polit/shattuck>

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**Montana Operations Office
301 South Park
Drawer 10096
Helena, Montana 59626**

**Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming**

Asbestos in Libby - EPA Action Update #2

Homes in Libby sampled, Local Information Center opens

For Immediate Release - December 17, 1999

Paul Peronard, EPA, (720) 231-1348
Wendy Thomi, EPA, (406) 441-1140 x236
John Constan, MDEQ, (406) 444-1438

LIBBY, MONTANA - - In coordination with State and Local personnel, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has sampled for asbestos in 35 homes in Libby, Montana. This sampling effort began on December 8 and ended today, Friday, December 17, 1999. Area residents have expressed concern that their homes and other areas around Libby may be contaminated with asbestos fibers. Approximately 55 residents have volunteered for sampling. EPA sampled indoor air, dust, and insulation as well as yard and garden soil. In addition, to the residences, EPA sampled several other potential source areas in Libby such as two former processing facilities and the road leading up to the former vermiculite mine. EPA is sending all of the samples to labs for analysis and hopes to have results back and interpreted by the end of January 2000.

From these results, EPA hopes to get a better idea if there is a current health risk from asbestos. It is important to remember that even if we find asbestos fibers in someone's home, if people don't breathe in the fibers, there may not be a problem. EPA will also use the sampling results to figure out what the next steps should be as we address the community's concerns --- and our concerns --- about asbestos in Libby.

Although EPA's Local Information Center officially opened its doors on Thursday, December 16, 1999, area residents have been calling and stopping by for the past week. The Center is staffed full-time by Linda Newstrom. Area residents are encouraged to stop by, ask questions and pick up information about the sampling and potential health effects from asbestos. Area residents can also call the Information Center with questions, concerns and ask to be added to the mailing list. The telephone number at the Information Center is (406) 293-6194.

Over the holidays, the Center will have shorter hours.

For the week of December 20, 1999 the Center will be open:

Monday 8:30-5:00 pm
Tuesday 12:00-8:00 pm
Wednesday 8:30-5:00 pm
Thursday Closed
Friday Closed

For the week of December 27 1999, the Center will be open:

Monday 8:30-5:00 pm
Tuesday 12:00-8:00 pm
Wednesday 8:30-5:00 pm
Thursday 8:30-5:00 pm
Friday Closed

On January 3, 2000, the Information Center will continue resume its normal hours:

Monday 8:30-5:00 pm
Tuesday 12:00-8:00 pm
Wednesday 8:30-5:00 pm
Thursday 8:30-5:00 pm
Friday 8:30-5:00 pm

Other helpful contacts are:

Dr. Chris Weis, EPA Toxicologist and Science Advisor (303) 312-6671
Johanna Miller, EPA On-Scene Coordinator (303) 312-6804
Diana Hammer, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (303) 312-6601

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Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
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Cheyenne EMPACT grant announced

Note to Correspondents - December 16, 1999

Denver - - The City of Cheyenne, Wyoming has been awarded a grant from EPA's Environmental Monitoring for Public Access and Community Tracking (EMPACT) Program. The City will receive \$199,650 from EPA for its Environmental Monitoring and Awareness Program (E-MAP) for Healthy Water Project. This project will build the capacity of residents of Cheyenne and Laramie County, Wyoming to participate effectively in environmental issues related to water. The E-MAP project will focus on providing previously hard to obtain water information in an easily usable and accessible electronic format for the public. E-MAP will train citizens to utilize computer resources to obtain data on water quality and availability and educate them on how to obtain tests for drinking water wells, evaluations of septic systems and information on public water and sewer systems.

Using training classes, a Speaker Series, and specially designed written educational materials, E-MAP will help citizens address their concerns about water quality and quantity and participate in local decision-making processes. The project will include the city of Cheyenne and the whole of Laramie County which is 2,500 square miles.

For more information on EMPACT: www.epa.gov/empact

For all Region 8 news releases: www.epa.gov/region08/news/news.html

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Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
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U.S. and Parish Chemical settle air, waste cases

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - December 13, 1999

Jerry Ellington, DOJ (303) 312-7321
Mike Risner, EPA (303) 312-6890
Rich Lathrop (800) 227-8917 x6780

SALT LAKE CITY - - Parish Chemical Company (PCC) of Vineyard, UT has agreed to make sweeping improvements at its facility at 145 North Geneva Road and pay a \$100,000 penalty for alleged violations of federal clean air and hazardous waste laws.

The actions came in a consent decree entered December 2 in U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City among the company, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Environmental Protection Agency in Denver.

Following a July 1992 fire at the facility, EPA performed an emergency cleanup under the "Superfund" law. First responders to the fire found a situation made worse by improper storage, handling and labeling of extremely hazardous substances, among them nitromethane and crystallized picric acid, which can explode when exposed to shock and therefore require special storage.

Many unidentified chemicals were also found and incompatible chemicals were stored together. Such storage is never appropriate and multiplies the danger in emergency responses, EPA said.

EPA did a followup assessment in 1996 and decided no further action would be taken under the Superfund law. EPA and Utah's Department of Environmental Quality continued to watch the site. An inspection in 1997, turned up many additional violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (the nation's basic hazardous waste law) and "due care" provisions of the Clean Air Act.

The Department of Justice filed a complaint on behalf of EPA in U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City on July 23, 1997. Another inspection in 1998 showed violations continuing.

"Due care" provisions were added to the CAA after a gas release from a Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India killed 3,000 people and injured thousands more. They require persons storing hazardous substances to design and maintain

safe facilities to prevent releases and minimize their consequences.

Parish Chemical filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in August 1997 and filed a reorganization plan a year later. EPA objected because the plan lacked provisions to correct the ongoing air and waste violations. When the company agreed to corrective measures, to pay a \$100,000 penalty for the violations and more than \$200,000 for the cleanup EPA performed during and after the 1992 fire, the Agency withdrew its objections.

While PCC disputes some of the Government's allegations in the complaint, it nevertheless agreed to improve chemical handling and facility management, to close surface ponds that contain hazardous materials, monitor possible contamination and work with the Vineyard and Orem Fire Departments to comply with the Uniform Fire Code.

Within 30 days after the decree is entered, PCC must submit plans for:

- properly storing nitromethane, picric acid and other hazardous substances.
- repackaging materials that are in rusted drums.
- inventorying chemicals.
- maintaining and operating the plant to minimize risk of fire, explosions or releases.
- providing emergency contingency plans to local fire and police departments.

For the surface ponds, PCC must spell out how it will characterize the contents, examine soil and groundwater, close the ponds and dispose of their contents. PCC must also submit a plan to monitor soil and groundwater into the future.

To correct the fire code problems, PCC must immediately try to arrange a facility audit with the Vineyard and Orem fire departments. Thirty days after the audit, PCC must submit a plan to correct all the code violations found.

"Facilities such as PCC deal with some of the most dangerous materials known," said Carol Rushin, EPA's Enforcement Director in Denver. "The consequences of doing that improperly can be catastrophic. Companies owe it to their communities and their neighbors to operate as safely as they can. That includes complying with clean air and hazardous waste laws. Where companies fail to do that, our duty is to act to protect the public health and the environment," Rushin said.

"It is vital to the safety of our communities that companies comply with clean air and hazardous waste laws and properly store dangerous substances," said Lois J. Schiffer, Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources with DOJ in Washington, DC. "We will continue to pursue those companies that violate these requirements and endanger the American people."

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**Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
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Asbestos in Libby - EPA Action Update #1

Indoor sampling of "volunteered" homes to begin this week

For Immediate Release - December 6, 1999

Wendy Thomi (406) 441-1140 x236

Helena - - Staff from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Public Health Service will begin sampling for asbestos in the homes of 25 or 30 residents who offered their homes for the checks, according to EPA community relations staffer Wendy Thomi.

The sampling may begin as early as Dec. 8 and is expected to continue through December 17. The team will sample for fibers in dust and air inside the homes as well as soil from the yard or garden. The scientists hope to couple the sample results with information provided by residents to get a better picture of how people have been exposed to asbestos and whether there is a current health risk from exposure to asbestos fibers.

The EPA will set up a small office in Libby from which to work. The office should be operational by Dec. 10. Someone will be available at the office to answer calls from the interested public. EPA and MDEQ staff will arrange time to talk with people who have questions or concerns about asbestos.

In the near future, the storefront will contain a section with educational materials about asbestos, and ways that the community can be involved in the ongoing assessment of sources of asbestos in Libby. The storefront will also provide a local place to call or go to request sampling at residents' homes or to request to be put on EPA's mailing list.

Other helpful numbers:

Paul Peronard, EPA On-Scene Coordinator/Team Leader - (720) 231-1348
Dr. Chris Weis, EPA Toxicologist - (303) 898-2539
John Constan, MDEQ Project Manager - (406) 444-1438

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Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

EPA orders halt to sales of bear spray

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - November 23, 1999

Dana Stotsky, EPA (303) 312-6905
Tim Osag, EPA (303) 312-6582
Jennifer Wintersteen, EPA (406) 441-1130

Denver - - Concerned that a spray intended to deter bear attacks on humans may not be effective, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today ordered the Missoula, Montana-based manufacturer of "Bear Pause" to halt sales immediately.

EPA will also ask distributors to pull the product from their shelves and advises people who bought the spray not to rely on it. Bear Pause is made by ChemArmor of Missoula and carried an EPA registration number (EPA Reg. No.71768-1).

At issue is the chemical formula used in the spray. Capsaicin, the chemical that makes hot peppers hot, is an EPA-approved active ingredient in pepper sprays used to deter attacks by dogs and bears. While EPA had approved a purified form of capsaicin in BearPause in March 1999, EPA learned that ChemArmor, without Agency approval, had substituted a much cheaper and untested active ingredient in Bear Pause, vanillyl pelargonamide, "VP" for short.

While belonging to the same chemical family (capsaicinoids) and incorrectly called "synthetic capsaicin," VP is chemically distinct from capsaicin and is not used as the active ingredient in any registered product in the U.S. EPA does not have reliable data on its chemistry, toxicity, ecological effects or effectiveness.

“We don’t want people going into bear country with a product on their hip that may not do its job if needed,” said Tim Osag who enforces pesticide law for EPA’s Denver regional office.

“ChemArmor could apply to register Bear Pause with VP,” Osag said, “but they would have to provide data about its chemistry, its health and environmental effects, and its effectiveness. They didn’t do that. In their original application, they stated that capsaicin would be the active ingredient. We know capsaicin sprays are effective. We can’t say that about VP.”

EPA is charged with oversight of thousands of products in commerce. Makers of “pesticide” chemicals from disinfectants to lawn chemicals to bear sprays must register their products with the Agency. They provide information to EPA about contents, formulas, uses and hazards. It is illegal to submit incorrect information in that process. Osag said the Agency is considering additional enforcement and registration options besides the “stop sales.”

“Right now, the most important thing is to get the material off the market and get the word out to back-country users,” Osag said.

EPA has not received evidence of similar problems with other bear-deterrents on the market. As part of its normal monitoring work, however, the Agency may test similar products in the future to verify that they contain capsaicin and not VP, Osag said.

A list of properly registered bear deterrents is attached to this news release and is also available on EPA’s Internet site at <http://www.epa.gov/region08/toxics/pests/repelbr.html> or by calling 1 (800) 227-8917 (from CO, MT, ND, SD, UT and WY) or (303) 312-6312 from outside EPA’s Region 8.

Registrants of Bear-Deterrents Containing Capsaicin	
1. Counter Assault Bear Deterrent EPA Reg. No. 55541-2 Application received 7/22/97 Registered May 12, 1998	Bushwacker Backpack & Supply Co. Inc. 120 Industry Court Kalispell, MT 59901 Attention: Mr. Pride Johnson Tel: 1-800-695-3394 E-Mail: counterassault@bigsky.net Web Site: counterassault.com/

<p>2. Guard Alaska Bear Repellent EPA Reg. No. 71545-1 Application received 7/13/98 Registered December 22, 1998</p>	<p>McNeil River Enterprises, Inc., 750 West Diamond, Suite 203 Anchorage, AK 99515 Attention: Mr. Randy Prater Tel: 1-888-419-9695 E-Mail: randy@guardalaska.com Web Site: guardalaska.com</p>
<p>3. BearGuard EPA Reg. No. 71920-1 Application received 12/16/98 Registered March 18, 1999</p>	<p>Guardian Personal Security Products, Inc. 21639 North 14th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85027 Attention: Mr. Karl Scholz Tel: 1-800-527-4434 E-Mail: guardianproducts@worldnet.att.net Web Site: guardianproducts.com</p>
<p>4. UDAP Pepper Power EPA Reg. No. 71920-1-72007 [A subregistrant of Bear Guard]</p>	<p>Universal Defense Alternative Products (UDAP) 13160 Yonder Road Bozeman, MT 59715 Contact: Mark Matheny Tel: 1-800-232-7941 E-Mail: bearman@udap.com Website: udap.com</p>
<p>5. Bear Peppermace EPA Reg. No. 71920-1-61311 [A subregistrant of Bear Guard]</p>	<p>MACE Security International, Inc. 160 Benmont Ave. Bennington, VT 05201 Contract: Eric Crawford Tel: 1-802-447-1503 E-Mail: mace@sover.net Website: mace.com</p>

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Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
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Media availability session regarding Shattuck decision

Environmental News Advisory - November 10, 1999

Barry Levene 303-312-6807
Lauren Mical 202-260-4358

WHAT: Timothy Fields, Jr., EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, will announce his decision regarding the Shattuck Superfund site.

Fields and EPA Regional Administrator Bill Yellowtail will be available for questions.

Elected officials and Shattuck Dialogue members will be available for questions.

WHEN : Monday, November 15, 2:00 PM

WHERE: Adams Mark Hotel, 1550 Court Place, Denver, Director's Row H

WHO: Senator Wayne Allard (invited), Representative Diana DeGette (invited), Colorado Governor Bill Owens (invited), Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, Members of Shattuck Dialogue group

Principals of the Shattuck Dialogue primarily include EPA, Denver, The State of Colorado, Community Groups, (Clean-It! and the Overland Neighborhood Environmental Watch) and the Shattuck Chemical Company

[Text of Announcement](#)(pdf format)

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Boulder Business Honored for Energy Efficiency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - November 8, 1999

Patty Weimerskirch EPA 303-312-6464
George Donnelly EPA 303-312-6193
Vaughn Whatley EPA 303-312-6603

Denver - - Denver—The Boulder Book Store in Boulder, Colorado, was awarded the ENERGY STAR® Small Business Award by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for conserving energy and reducing the amount of harmful pollutants released into the air by modifying their building and converting to equipment that employs energy efficient technology.

The ENERGY STAR® Small Business Award recognizes those small businesses that effectively reduce their energy usage which leads to lower operating outlays. Program participants accomplish these savings by upgrading their buildings with energy-efficient lighting, heating, cooling, and ventilation equipment. This is the first year of what will be an annual award presented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A ceremony honoring the Boulder Book Store will take place on November 9, at the Raintree Plaza Hotel Conference Center, in Longmont, from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

When Boulder Bookstore Owner David Bolduc moved his 7,000-sq.-ft. bookstore to a facility three times that size, the electricity bill only increased by one-third because Bolduc instituted several energy-efficiency features into the design of the new space. These steps now save him almost \$2,000 annually. Bolduc upgraded lights which he says are "a must" for a retail establishment where product merchandising is important. He also installed super-insulated, double-pane windows and an energy-efficient evaporative cooler. In addition to the new energy-saving equipment, Bolduc reduced his water usage by installing efficient toilets and aerators in faucets. Overall, Bolduc's savings from these measures amounts to \$4,800 annually.

Energy-efficient technology saves billions of dollars for businesses while protecting the health and environment of all Americans by cutting pollution that damages our natural resources. "Our small-business partners throughout the metro area are at the forefront in reducing their energy needs, saving money and preventing pollution through sensible energy management and by installing energy-efficient materials," observed Judith Wong, EPA's Pollution Prevention Program Director in Denver. "We encourage other companies both large and small to join our [ENERGY](#)

[STAR® program](#) and make a sound investment in their future."

The ENERGY STAR® Small Business Program offers business owners information and tools to reduce total energy use in their buildings. "To win this award, small businesses were judged on how many upgrades were made and cost savings per square foot, as well as creativity and innovation," according to Jerry Lawson, Director of EPA's ENERGY STAR® Small Business Program. "The awards program recognizes those who make the initial investment in energy efficiency and reach the ultimate goals of saving money and preventing pollution."

When fossil fuels such as coal, oil, or natural gas are burned to generate electricity, emissions such as carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides are released into the environment. These emissions lead to smog, acid rain and global climate change. By installing energy-efficient equipment, participating companies reduce the amount of energy needed to power their facilities, which leads to less pollution, cleaner air and a healthier environment.

ENERGY STAR® Small Business is a free EPA service that helps small businesses cut cost by using energy-efficient equipment and fixtures. ENERGY STAR® Small Business is part of EPA's Climate Protection Division, and is committed to reducing greenhouse gases through energy-efficiency and cost-effective partnerships with industries in all sectors of the economy. Technical assistance and more information are available at the ENERGY STAR® small business hotline, 1-888-STAR YES or at <http://www.epa.gov/smallbiz/>.

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Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

EPA proposes addition of former Intermountain Waste Oil Refinery to NPL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - October 22, 1999

David Williams EPA (800) 227-8917
Eleanor Dwight EPA (800) 227-8917
Brad Johnson UDEQ (801) 536-4170

Denver - - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today proposed adding the former Intermountain Waste Oil Refinery in Bountiful, Utah to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites. This announcement begins a sixty-day period during which citizens may send EPA their comments on the proposed listing.

The refinery is on about two acres at 955 South 500 West in Bountiful. The Refinery operated for some 35 years, closing in 1993. The company processed waste oil from facilities in Utah and several surrounding states. Waste oil was treated onsite and then mostly sent to area cement plants for use as fuel in cement kilns. The waste sludge material from the process was sent to local landfills.

While in operation the business was cited a number times by both the Davis County Health Department and the State of Utah. The violations were prompted by complaints of odors and health problems from neighbors who believed the oil/sludge wastes to be the cause. After the company closed the owners dismantled the refinery and consolidated some of the waste into a pile on the northeast portion of the site. The remainder of the site was partially covered with several inches of gravel.

Oil and refinery wastes are visible on the site. Contaminants such as volatile organic compounds have been observed in the groundwater underlying the site. Regional municipal drinking water wells are within a four mile radius of the site and could become contaminated with these compounds

The NPL is a published list of U.S. hazardous waste sites eligible for extensive, long-term cleanup under the Superfund program. Listing makes the site eligible to receive federal funds for cleanup while EPA seeks to recover costs from the responsible parties. Placing the site on the NPL also allows EPA to use Superfund money for cleanup when there are no responsible parties who can pay for the work.

Listing on the NPL guarantees the public an opportunity to participate in cleanup decisions. Information that EPA used to document the proposed listing of the site is available at:

Davis County Library, South Branch
725 South Main
Bountiful, Utah 84010
Tel: (801) 295-8732

U.S. EPA Superfund Records Center
999 18th St. Suite 500
Denver, CO 80207
Toll free (800) 227-8917 ext. 6473

People interested in commenting on the proposed NPL listing should send their original comments and three copies to:

Docket Coordinator,
Headquarters U.S. EPA; CERCLA Docket Office (5201G)
401 M Street SW
Washington, DC 20460
(703) 603-9232

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Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
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Vail Associates, Vail Resorts issued Order to restore and protect wetlands

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - October 22, 1999

Carol Rushin EPA (303) 312-7028
Michael Risner EPA (303) 312-6890
Diane Sipe EPA (303) 312-6391
Jody Ostendorf EPA (303) 312-7814

Denver - - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today issued an Administrative Order to Vail Associates, Inc. and Vail Resorts, Inc. (VA/VR) to restore and protect wetlands that were illegally filled during the construction of a temporary haul road.

The road was built to remove timber cut to accommodate the Category III expansion and to provide additional construction access to the site. The U.S. Forest Service closed the road on July 24, 1999 after the alleged violations were confirmed. The 0.7 acre of unique, seep-fed wetlands that were impacted can be restored if protective action is taken now.

VA/VR must take action now to stabilize and winterize the road to protect the wetlands and the Lime Creek watershed from further immediate impacts. The Order requires the portion of the road that crosses wetlands to remain closed and VA/VR are prohibited from driving any vehicles or heavy equipment on it after stabilization work is completed. Furthermore, VA/VR is ordered to submit a workplan to EPA describing how the wetlands will be restored. Once EPA approves a workplan, VA/VR will have until August 31, 2000 to complete the restoration work.

"This Order, combined with the Forest Service's road closure, is intended to provide for protection and restoration of these unique alpine wetlands," EPA Assistant Regional Administrator Carol Rushin said.

EPA's decision to require immediate protection and permanent restoration will require the Forest Service to reevaluate a portion of its Record of Decision regarding the timber removal methods. The Forest Service has been consulted and is coordinating efforts with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assist VA/VR in achieving EPA's restoration goals.

“Although this Order does not alter the basic Category III decision, this new information will change requirements for removing the timber,” White River National Forest Supervisor Martha Ketelle said. “We will cooperate with EPA to coordinate protection and restoration of the watershed while we provide the opportunity for Vail Associates to proceed with the project.”

Wetlands violations often result in civil penalties. EPA is currently gathering information to determine whether civil penalties are appropriate in this case.

The Order is not expected to interfere with VA's recent announcement to open its back bowls a year early. The temporary haul road is used to remove timber and is not used for any purpose related to skier access to the area.

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EPA orders cleanup, closure of Wyoming oil pits

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - October 20, 1999

Sharon Kercher (303) 312-6352
Mike Risner (303) 312-6890
Rich Lathrop (800) 227-8917 x6780

Denver - - The Environmental Protection Agency has ordered the Bureau of Land Management to take immediate measures to eliminate threats to the environment from two oil pits on land it owns in the Poison Spider Field southwest of Casper and to produce plans within 45 days for the cleanup and closure of the pits.

In an administrative order sent to BLM State Director Alan R. Pierson in Cheyenne today, EPA directed its sister agency to immediately begin daily inspections of the site and keep birds and wildlife away from the mess that killed more than 75 birds last summer and partly covered two mule deer fawns that had to be destroyed by officials. BLM can request a conference with EPA Regional Administrator Bill Yellowtail within 5 days.

Otherwise BLM has 30 days to submit a plan of interim measures it will take to protect human health and the environment until a final cleanup is achieved. The plan must include a schedule and an "operation and maintenance" plan to assure that the measures are not interrupted.

Within 45 days, the Bureau must:

- submit a plan for closing the pits including methods it will use to manage oil, oily waste and debris.
- describe the quality and depth to groundwater near the pits and identify any groundwater users within a mile.
- describe surface water features in the area.
- describe alternative "closure" measures it evaluates and the method it selects.
- provide a schedule for the chosen method.

The pits were among more than 200 sites identified by a multi-agency team that began working together in Casper in January 1997 to bring the resources of Federal and State agencies, oil companies and the Wind River Tribes to bear against "problem oil pits" in Wyoming.

Team members took on responsibility for specific sites, according to their jurisdiction and liability. The pits at Poison Spider fell to BLM because it owned surface and mineral rights to the field and because no one had used the pits since the 1920's. In December 1998, BLM documented a "successful remediation" of the pits to EPA and the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (WOGCC). In March 1999, however, BLM found that pit liners had failed, one producing an oil "flow" 12 feet wide and 100 feet long. By August, it had grown to 800 feet.

At the time, BLM notified the WOGCC of the finding. The Bureau did not inform other team members EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality then nor at later team meetings in May, July and August. A Flight for Life helicopter pilot reported a "spill" on August 25 to the Natrona County Sheriff's office which reported it to the Wyoming Game & Fish Department. Those two agencies responded that day and informed USF&W and EPA a few days later.

EPA's Regional Administrator in Denver, Bill Yellowtail, said, "It's disappointing that a Federal partner came up short in this team effort. Of the 200-plus problem pits the team identified in 1997, most have been adequately cleaned up by industry itself. But the pits in the Poison Spider field were among the worst and remain so today. Their cleanup must receive a higher priority." Yellowtail continued, "Today's action should get us to a schedule and a solid workplan for a lasting and effective closure of those pits."

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Note to correspondents

Final two "Fort Collins audit" cases settled

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 29, 1999

Carol Rushin (303) 312-6051
Mike Risner (303) 312-6890
Jim Stearns (303) 312-6912

Denver - - DENVER—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Denver has reached settlements with two companies doing business at the Fort Collins-Loveland Municipal Airport over potential pollution violations which the City of Fort Collins self-disclosed in 1996. EPA and the City settled on 200 reported problems last September.

Left out of that settlement were problems at Firewall Foreward and Ft. Collins-Loveland jetCenter, Inc., both companies that lease space at the airport for their aircraft fuel storage and distribution, and repair and maintenance businesses.

Of the 11 matters the City disclosed on behalf of jetCenter, EPA found that 9 either were not violations or were corrected quickly, allowing the Agency to waive 100 percent of the penalty for those matters under its self-audit policy.

EPA assessed a penalty of \$4,485 for jetCenter's failure to have in place plans to prevent, contain and respond to spills from surface tanks under the Clean Water Act's Oil Pollution provisions. That penalty goes to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund which the U.S. Coast Guard uses to respond to spills, including inland spills. The company has completed its spill plan, upgraded structures to contain spills and improved its underground piping to comply with National requirements.

Firewall Foreward failed to meet four requirements involving underground storage tanks. As a "small quantity generator" of hazardous wastes, it is also required to train its workers and post the name of an emergency coordinator. For those violations, EPA assessed a penalty of \$2,609 and will also require the company to spend \$13,160 to develop an environmental management system (EMS) to improve its compliance with a range of environmental requirements that govern used oil handling and hazardous wastes. The EMS may become a model for

use by other small businesses.

These actions came under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, a basic hazardous waste law that regulates waste from point of origin, through transportation, treatment, storage and final disposal.

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Changes proposed in Superfund cleanup at Eagle Mine

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 28, 1999

Art Varnado (303) 312-6608
Gene Taylor (303) 312-6536

Denver - - State and Federal pollution authorities are proposing a significant change in the "Superfund" cleanup at the Eagle Mine near Minturn, Colorado and are inviting public comment on the proposal until October 15, 1999.

At issue is an underground water source that feeds some 200 gallons per minute of clean water into the mine. Viacom International, Inc., the company responsible for the cleanup, has demonstrated that it can intercept water and pump more than 100 gallons per minute from a deep well before it enters the mine. Pumping would greatly reduce the amount of water entering the mine, reduce the volume of water needing treatment and the volume of sludge produced daily.

Because the pumping was not contemplated when the cleanup plan was approved in 1988, it marks a change in the cleanup. The Superfund law requires EPA and, in this case, its partner the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, to publish an "explanation of significant differences (ESD)" and provide a public comment period for changes proposed after a final "record of decision" spells out cleanup plans.

Cleanup has been underway since 1988 at the large underground zinc mine on the banks of the Eagle River about 3 miles south of Minturn. The mine's discharge, polluted with dissolved metals, was collected and delivered to an on-site water treatment plant. Though very effective, the plant was expensive and produced 4-5 cubic yards of sludge per day.

EPA has completed an ESD formally adding the deep well and water intercept operation to the Eagle Mine cleanup. Copies of the ESD are available at the Town Manager's office, Minturn, Colorado; the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, Colorado; and, the U.S.EPA, Region 8, 999 18th Street, Denver, Colorado. Copies can also be obtained by calling the Remedial Manager, Gene Taylor, at (303) 312-6536.

Any comments must be received by October 15, 1999. Comments should be mailed to:

Gene Taylor, RPM
USEPA (8EPR-SR)
Suite 500
999 18th Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

or you may contact

Art Varnado, CIC
USA EPA (8P-W)
Suite 500
999 18th Street
Denver, Colorado, 80202

or

Wendy Naugle or Marion M Gallant at the

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
HMWMD RP-B2
Denver, Colorado, 80246-1330

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Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
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Developer ordered to restore tributary of Big Thompson River

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 8, 1999

Marc Weiner EPA (303) 312-6913
Barbara Conklin EPA (303) 312-6407
Rich Lathrop EPA (303) 312-6780

Denver -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ordered a Florida developer to remove dams and fill material that was bulldozed into a tributary of the Big Thompson River and restore wetlands damaged in a proposed residential development northwest of Loveland.

On August 30, 1999, the Agency ordered Fred Bernstein, developer of the Indian Creek Ranch, to immediately stop any further "discharges" into Indian Creek, its wetlands or tributaries and to submit a plan within 30 days for assessing and repairing the damage. Work would have to be completed by next March 31.

The plan must be prepared by a qualified wetland scientist acceptable to EPA and must:

- "delineate" the disturbed areas and describe the damage including a map and a narrative of the amount, type and location of material that was placed in the wetlands,
- map and describe sediment deposited downstream,
- describe the work that will be done to remove sediments, restore and stabilize the streambed and revegetate the damaged area, and
- describe how the area's recovery will be monitored over time.

Bernstein, President or Director of Y&B Properties, Indian Creek Investment, ICR, Inc. and K&J Properties who has offices in Florida and Highlands Ranch south of Denver, also faces civil penalties under the nation's Clean Water Act. The Act provides for penalties of up to \$27,500 per day for "discharging" pollutants into waterways without a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

According to EPA, the unpermitted discharges occurred between spring and fall of 1998, threatening water quality in Indian Creek. A dam built earlier by the previous landowner failed this spring, sending a large amount of sediment

downstream.

The Clean Water Act regulates construction in America's waterways through a permit system administered by the Corps and enforced by EPA. The law extends protection to wetlands because they provide habitat for many kinds of wildlife, enhance water quality, recharge groundwater, ease flooding and provide recreation and aesthetic values.

Carol Rushin, EPA's Enforcement Director in Denver, said the agency "is taking this action to prevent further harm to Indian Creek and the Big Thompson watershed from unpermitted construction of dams and road crossings."

Front Range property owners planning to alter streams or fill wetlands should always contact the Corps of Engineers office in Littleton (303) 979-4120 before starting work to see if they need a permit, Rushin noted.

EPA's order is effective when received and the respondent has five days to inform the Agency in writing of his intent to comply. In a fax transmittal to EPA on September 3, 1999, Mr. Bernstein notified EPA of his intention to comply with the order.

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Settlement Negotiated between EPA and Denver-area Refinery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 8, 1999

Carol Rushin EPA (303) 312-6051
Mike Risner EPA (303) 312-6890
Jim Eppers EPA (303) 312-6893
News Office EPA (303) 312-6592

Denver -- Colorado Refining Company and TPI Petroleum, Inc. (CRC/TPI) will make major environmental improvements at their Commerce City refinery and pay a \$1.1 million penalty to settle air pollution and hazardous waste charges brought by the U.S. Department of Justice for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The settlement was negotiated by Ultramar Diamond Shamrock (UDS), the refinery's new owner, which acquired CRC/TPI in September, 1997.

The complaint settled today alleges that, for at least nine years, the refinery operated numerous tanks and loading docks with a vapor recovery system that was not shown to be capable of processing petroleum vapors to prevent their emission into the atmosphere. Because of the refinery's failure to demonstrate the efficiency of its system, the actual amount of excess emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released into the air is unknown.

Carol Rushin, director of enforcement for EPA's Denver office, said "Our very conservative estimate is that these emissions equaled 160 tons per year. While that may not seem significant when compared to the total emissions for the Denver area, it is important to control emissions from all sources and especially those that emit VOCs because we are so close to exceeding the national ozone standard here."

VOCs are very reactive in sunlight and contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone smog that irritates lungs, eyes and sinuses. It can increase risk of heart or respiratory illness especially for the elderly and children and mean more frequent and severe attacks for asthma sufferers.

The settlement removes any competitive advantage the companies may have enjoyed while not complying with the law, addresses the seriousness of the companies' violations, and obtains important environmental improvements not reflected in a prior State of Colorado settlement of some of these Clean Air Act violations.

Under the EPA settlement, the refinery will now install covers and other technology on tanks to control air emissions and will commit to closely monitor the operation of flares that burn off vapors released when the refinery petroleum products are loaded into trucks and railcars. The State settlement required certain work at the refinery, but under the State's "self-audit" law, assessed no penalty even though the refinery has had a long history of pollution problems, including 11 environmental enforcement cases since 1986.

The subject Clean Air Act and hazardous waste violations and CRC's settlement with the State occurred before UDS acquired the refinery. Rushin commended UDS for its cooperation with EPA in resolving this matter, "It has been clear that they want to solve the problems at this refinery and get on with their business."

"This settlement means cleaner, healthier air for the people of this Region and our nation," Lois J. Schiffer, Assistant Attorney General for Environment and Natural Resources at the Department of Justice, said.

Under the hazardous waste portion of the settlement (under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act), the companies agree to redo work CRC/TPI had agreed to in 1989 in a consent order with EPA and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to document contamination of soil, surface water and ground water on and adjacent to refinery property. In 1992, EPA and CDPHE inspectors found that the 1989 order had not stopped the migration of contaminants such as toluene, benzene, xylene and naphthalene. CRC/TPI agreed to do additional work collecting ground water, surface water, soil and sediment samples, to design and implement plans to halt migration of wastes and mitigate effects of earlier waste practices.

According to EPA allegations, the company had previously submitted many reports with flawed data that did not accurately reflect site contamination. As a result, the Agency believes the cleanup of the facility has been delayed.

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EPA Water Enforcement Agreement with South Dakota environmental groups

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 1, 1999

Peggy Livingston, EPA (303) 312-6858
Bruce Zander, EPA (303) 312-6846
Jody Ostendorf, EPA (303) 312-7814

Denver - - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reached an agreement with various South Dakota environmental groups about water quality in South Dakota.

The agreement settles a lawsuit that had been filed against the EPA regarding the Clean Water Act's Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, program. A TMDL is a computation of how much of a particular pollutant a river or lake can assimilate without violating its water quality standards. The Clean Water Act requires states to make lists of waterbodies for which minimum water quality controls on all municipal and industrial dischargers are not enough to meet water quality standards. States are required to do TMDLs for those waters. If EPA disapproves a State's TMDL or a State's list of waters that need TMDLs, then EPA is required to do the TMDL or list for the State.

South Dakota has an active program for establishing TMDLs and listing waterbodies that need TMDLs. The EPA has approved over 60 TMDLs that South Dakota has submitted to the EPA.

"EPA has been very pleased with South Dakota's performance in the TMDL program. This settlement recognizes the good job that the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources has done through the years in doing TMDLs and identifying the rivers and lakes that need them," said Max Dodson, the Assistant Regional Administrator for Ecosystems Protection and Remediation for EPA's Denver, Colorado office.

The agreement allows South Dakota to continue with its TMDL program, without any court supervision. South Dakota's program encompasses waters throughout the state, including the Big Sioux River, Lake Cochrane, Lake Oliver, and various streams, such as Strawberry Creek, in the Black Hills.

EPA has agreed to use its best efforts over the next two years to provide technical and monetary assistance to the Oglala Sioux Tribe in investigating water quality problems that have been reported in the Cheyenne River along the

border of the Pine Ridge Reservation.

The plaintiffs who sued EPA were the Spearfish Canyon Preservation Trust, Action for the Environment, Citizens to Restore Terry Peak Mountain, Concerned Citizens of Boulder Canyon, Prairie Hills Audubon Society of Western South Dakota, South Dakota Resources Coalition, and the Oglala Sioux Tribe. They were represented by Earthlaw in Denver, Colorado.

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EPA Water Enforcement Agreement with Colorado environmental groups

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 1, 1999

Peggy Livingston, EPA (303) 312-6858
Bruce Zander, EPA (303) 312-6846
Jody Ostendorf, EPA (303) 312-7814

Denver - - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reached an agreement with two Colorado environmental groups about EPA's role in protecting water quality in Colorado.

The agreement settles a lawsuit that had been filed against the EPA regarding the Clean Water Act's Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, program. A TMDL is a computation of how much of a particular pollutant that a river or lake can assimilate without violating its water quality standards. The Clean Water Act requires states to make lists of waterbodies for which minimum water quality controls on all municipal and industrial dischargers are not enough to meet water quality standards. States are required to do TMDLs for those waters. If EPA disapproves a state's TMDL or list of waters that need TMDLs, then EPA is required to do the TMDL or the for the state.

Colorado has an active program for establishing TMDLs and listing waterbodies that need TMDLs. EPA has approved over 200 TMDLs that Colorado has submitted to EPA.

The EPA has been very pleased with Colorado's performance in the TMDL program. "This settlement recognizes the good job that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has done through the years in doing TMDLs and identifying the rivers and lakes that need them," said Max Dodson, the Assistant Regional Administrator for Ecosystems Protection and Remediation for EPA's Denver, Colorado office.

The State of Colorado is a party to settlement agreement. Under the agreement, Colorado has 10 years in which to finish TMDLs for all waterbodies that it listed in 1998 as needing TMDLs. The TMDLs to be developed by Colorado under this agreement will address pollutants that affect human health and the quality of fisheries in the State. If the state misses certain interim deadlines for doing these TMDLs, then EPA has two years in which to do them for the state.

Under the settlement, the lawsuit will be suspended until 2006. At that time, the parties can assess their progress and decide whether to ask the court to enter a formal dismissal. In the meantime, there is no court supervision of the TMDL schedule.

Also as part of the settlement, EPA and Colorado agreed that by January 1, 2000, they will establish an Internet website with information about Colorado's TMDL program, with technical assistance from the environmental groups who sued.

The plaintiffs were the Colorado Environmental Coalition and the Biodiversity Legal Foundation. They were represented by Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund.

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Letter to The Denver Post Re: USGS Recommendations at Shattuck Chemical

Letters Editor
The Denver Post
August 13, 1999

Editor:

The fact that not everyone agrees with EPA's decisions at the Shattuck Superfund site does not mean – as the Post declared in its Aug. 10 editorial – that there is a “lack of believable technical data” at the Shattuck Superfund site or that EPA should have immediately implemented the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) recommendations.

Partly in response to public and official unhappiness with the remedy at Shattuck we commissioned USGS to review the groundwater monitoring plan and to give us recommendations. They recommended 17 more wells. They suggested adding tests for chemicals that would give early warning if the concrete of the “monolith” were to start deteriorating and dropping other tests they felt were costly but unnecessary. These latter tests, however, provide EPA with the very information about radioactive substances that citizens are concerned about.

We value the USGS contributions. We fully expect to implement most of their recommendations. There are already 27 wells around the site (not a “few” as the *Post* claimed) and that gives us a high degree of certainty about what's in the groundwater. Still, we agree that additional monitoring based on the USGS recommendations and that of our own technical experts is useful. More wells mean more information and that is always welcome.

In the real world, we have to make decisions at one point in time based on the information at hand. But as an added protection, Superfund requires a review of remedies' effectiveness every five years. We are in that process even now (set to conclude in October) and the USGS information is now part

of that review.

We will also rely on the conclusions and the decisions that result from the “dialogue process” now being held by EPA Assistant Administrator Tim Fields and “stakeholders” in the Shattuck issue, also due to conclude in October.

Contaminants that were in the ground before Shattuck was ever listed as a Superfund site *are* moving in the groundwater toward the Overland Park golf course, not toward neighborhoods. I must emphasize: If the Shattuck pile were gone tomorrow, that movement would continue. They *will* reach the South Platte in amounts so small as to pose no environmental threat. What the remedy at the site has done is to stop, at the source, any *further* contamination.

To date, from all the evidence we have seen, the remedy at Shattuck is protecting human health and the environment. We will always evaluate new information as it becomes available and consider recommendations from other experts in the field.

Sincerely,

William Yellowtail
Regional Administrator

[Link to Region 8 Shattuck Information](#)

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EPA Releases Previously Confidential Shattuck Documents

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - August 2, 1999

Eleanor Dwight (303) 312-6813

DENVER - - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Denver today released nearly 90% of the documents, which were previously withheld as confidential, relating to the [Shattuck Chemical](#) Superfund site. This is in addition to those already available to the public.

Barry Levene, Director of the Colorado Superfund Section, said, "The documents show there was a constructive and thoughtful debate among EPA and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment employees as they analyzed the various approaches to site cleanup. The two seriously considered options –leaving contaminated material on site in a solidified state or removing the material– had one thing in common: they both protected human health and the environment . The key differences were substantial cost differential and the preference in the Superfund law for treating material on site as opposed to moving it elsewhere."

The documents that are not being released may contain either confidential business information which legally cannot be released, are considered privileged by the Department of Justice, or directly relate to the interests of the United States in current or future litigation.

The documents are available at EPA's Superfund record center at 999 18th Street.

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Vasquez Boulevard and I-70 area in Denver added to Superfund National Priorities List (NPL)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 22, 1999

David Williams, EPA (303) 312-6757
Ted Fellman, EPA (303) 312-6119
Bonnie Lavelle, EPA (303) 312-6579

DENVER -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today added an area near Vasquez Boulevard and I-70 in northeast Denver to the National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites. The site includes portions of the Elyria, Swansea, Cole and Clayton neighborhoods.

The NPL is a published list of U.S. hazardous waste sites that are eligible for extensive, long-term cleanup under the Superfund program. Inclusion on the NPL makes the site eligible to receive federal funds for cleanup while EPA seeks to recover costs from the responsible parties.

EPA is now sampling thousands of yards in the area to determine how many properties are affected. The Agency is also studying the potential health risks from these metals in the neighborhoods in a risk assessment. Further soil studies are underway to better understand the metals contamination. The EPA is investigating the source of contamination, much of which is arsenic trioxide, which could be associated with smelter waste and/or pesticides used in the area.

Historically, this was a busy area for metals smelting and refining in Denver. Three smelting plants operated at various times from the 1870's through the 1950's, refining a variety of metals including gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, and cadmium.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and EPA sampled soil in residential yards in these neighborhoods to determine if arsenic, cadmium and lead residues posed a potential threat to the health of the community. Sampling revealed high lead and arsenic concentrations in some yards.

In the fall of 1998 EPA removed soil from 18 residential properties with high levels of arsenic to address immediate health threats. EPA believes the remaining lead and arsenic contamination in some yards may pose a risk to area

residents. The area potentially affected is large enough to warrant federal Superfund involvement. Representatives of the affected neighborhoods, CDPHE, City and County of Denver, and the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry are working with EPA to identify cleanup options.

Placing this site on the NPL makes the site eligible for cleanup funding through the Superfund program. It also guarantees the public an opportunity to participate in cleanup decisions.

Information that EPA used to list the site on January 19, 1999, and responses to public comments on the proposal are available at:

U. S. EPA Records Center
999 18th St., 5th Floor
Denver, CO 80202-2466
Tel: (303) 312-6473

More limited information is available at:

Valdez-Perry Library
4690 Vine Street
Denver, CO 80216
Tel: (303) 295-4302

Cross Community Coalition
2332 E. 46th Ave.
Denver, CO 80216
Tel: (303) 292-3203

Ford Warren Library
2825 High St.
Denver, CO 80216
Tel: (303) 294-0907

Globeville Community Resource Center
4400 Lincoln St.
Denver, CO 80216
Tel: (303) 295-0171

[Region 8 VB-70 Fact Sheet](#)

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Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
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Two Montana mining sites proposed for Superfund National Priorities List (NPL)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 22, 1999

David Williams, EPA (303) 312-6757
Bob Fox, EPA (406) 441-1150 Ext. 264

HELENA, MT - Today the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will propose adding two separate historic mining areas near Helena, Montana to the National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites. The sites are the Upper Tenmile Creek Mining Area located in the Rimini Mining District, southwest of Helena, Montana and the Basin Mining Area located in the Boulder River Watershed. This announcement is being published in the Federal Register and begins a sixty-day period in which citizens may send EPA their comments separately on each of the proposed listings.

The NPL is a published list of hazardous waste sites in the U.S. eligible for extensive, long-term cleanup under the Superfund program. Listing on the NPL makes a site eligible to receive federal funds for cleanup while EPA seeks to recover costs from identified responsible parties, if any. Placing a site on the NPL also allows EPA to use Superfund money for cleanup when there are no responsible parties who can pay for the work. NPL designation will allow the EPA to participate with other agencies in comprehensive mine waste cleanup activities.

The Upper Tenmile Creek Mining Area consists of abandoned and inactive hard rock mines which produced gold, lead, zinc and copper from as early as 1870 until the 1920s. The site may include the entire drainage basin of Tenmile Creek and its tributaries that are upstream of the Helena drinking water supply intakes. Several abandoned mines are identified as possible sources of hazardous substances in the Upper Tenmile Creek Area. These uncontrolled wastes pose threats to the Helena drinking water treatment system. Tenmile Creek supports a trout fishery. Fish tissue samples have shown elevated levels of arsenic. Surface water and sediment samples show the presence of elevated levels of arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, and zinc that are attributable to the mines.

A limited amount of mine waste reclamation has previously been done by the Montana Abandoned Mine Reclamation Bureau and by EPA; however, there are still other sources of hazardous substances remaining in the area. EPA is planning additional removal actions this year.

The Basin Mining Area in the Boulder River watershed consists of uncontrolled mine tailings piles and areas of soil contamination resulting from metal mining activities. Tailings piles are located along Basin and Cataract Creeks and within the town of Basin. Mining in the Basin area began in the late 1800s and continued intermittently into the 1960s. Milling and smelting of ore took place in the town of Basin.

EPA and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality sampled soil and found elevated levels of arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, and other metals. Surface water and sediment sampling also showed elevated levels of these substances which are attributable to historic mining. The Boulder River, Basin Creek, and Cataract Creek flow through the Basin Mining Area and are used for recreational fishing. EPA conducted a removal action in Basin in 1998 and is planning additional removal actions this year.

Listing these two sites on the NPL guarantees the public an opportunity to participate in cleanup decisions. Affected communities are also eligible for technical assistance grants from the EPA to help facilitate community involvement at the two sites. Information that EPA used to document the proposed listing of the two sites is available at:

U. S. EPA Records Center
Montana Office
The Federal Building
301 South Park St. - 1st Floor records room
Helena, Montana 59626
Tel: (406) 441-1128

U. S. EPA Records Center
999 18th Street, 5th floor
Denver, CO 80202-2466
Tel: 303-312-6473

People interested in commenting on either of the two proposed NPL listings should comment separately on each site and send the original comments and three copies to:

Docket Coordinator,
Headquarters U.S. EPA
CERCLA Docket Office (5201G)
401 M Street SW
Washington, DC 20460
(703) 603-9232

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Jacobs Smelter in Stockton, Utah proposed for Superfund National Priorities List (NPL)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 22, 1999

David Williams, EPA (800) 227-8917 x6757
Jim Christiansen, EPA (800) 227-8917 x6748
Steve Poulsen, UDEQ (801) 536-4238
Nancy Mueller, EPA (800) 227-8917 x 6602

DENVER -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today proposed adding a former smelter in Stockton, Utah, to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites. This announcement begins a 60-day period during which citizens may comment on the proposed listing.

The NPL is a published list of U.S. hazardous waste sites that are eligible for comprehensive cleanup under the Superfund program. Listing on the NPL makes the site eligible to receive federal funds for cleanup while EPA seeks to recover costs from those responsible for the contamination. Placing the site on the NPL also allows EPA to use Superfund money for cleanup when there are no responsible parties who can pay for the work.

The Jacobs Smelter site covers at least 150 acres in Stockton, a community six miles south of Tooele City. Historically, the Rush Lake/Stockton area was a smelting center for this part of Utah, receiving and milling ore from most of the mines in the valley. Tailings and smelting wastes were deposited around the Jacobs Smelter and the surrounding community.

Investigations conducted by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) and EPA identified high concentrations of lead and arsenic in soil in residential areas. Exposure to high levels of lead and arsenic may pose a risk to children and other sensitive individuals. The potential problem is serious enough to warrant federal Superfund involvement.

In Spring of 1999, EPA's Emergency Response program began cleaning up 26 residential properties contaminated with very high concentrations of lead and arsenic. The proposed NPL listing will allow EPA and UDEQ to clean up those properties that are not addressed by the Emergency Response Action.

Listing the site on the NPL provides immediate funding for cleanup work. Listing also guarantees the public an opportunity to participate in cleanup decisions.

Information that EPA used to document the proposed listing of the site is available at:

Tooele City Library

47 East Vine Street

Tooele, UT 84074

(435) 882-2182

Hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed: Sunday and Monday

Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ)

Division of Environmental Response and Remediation

1950 West North Temple

Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4840

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

U.S. EPA Region 8 Records Center

999 18th Street (Check in at 3rd Floor, South Tower)

Denver, CO 80202-2466

(303) 312-6473

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

People interested in commenting on the proposed NPL listing should send their original comments and three copies, postmarked no later than September 20, 1999, to:

Docket Coordinator

Headquarters, U.S. EPA

CERCLA Docket Office (5201G)

401 M Street SW

Washington, DC 20460

(703) 602-9232

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EPA Honors Energy Saving Downtown Denver Office Buildings

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - July 21, 1999

Patty Weimerskirch, EPA (303) 312-6464
George Donnelly, EPA (303) 312-6193
Vaughn Whatley, EPA (303) 312-6603

Denver -- Three downtown Denver office buildings are conserving energy and reducing the amount of harmful pollutants released into the air with their participation in EPA's Energy Star® Buildings Label program. The building owners recently received bronze plaques to recognize their efforts, EPA's Denver Regional Office announced today.

This voluntary program reduces air pollution by eliminating wasted energy in commercial and industrial buildings. Program partners, such as Amerimar Realty Management Company and Prudential Insurance Company of America, actually save money by cutting energy consumption, which helps cut air pollution. "Every year, U.S. businesses pour at least \$25 billion dollars of profits down the drain in the form of wasted energy from inefficient buildings," said EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner. "Energy efficient buildings not only save billions of dollars for businesses, they also protect the health and environment of all Americans by reducing the pollution that contributes to global warming."

To receive EPA's special Energy Star® bronze plaque requires an owner or manager to rate their building's energy performance against actual energy consumption using a simple Internet-based tool. Now, for the first time, buildings nationwide can be compared equally based on energy performance, business activity, geographic location, etc. Buildings are ranked on a uniform scale of zero to 100; ratings over 75 earn owners the right to be called "Energy Star® Buildings".

Program participants accomplish these savings by upgrading their buildings with energy-efficient lighting, heating, cooling, and ventilation equipment. The two Energy Star® Buildings managed by Amerimar are the North/South Towers at Denver Place and the Plaza Tower at Denver Place. The Amerimar buildings scored 96 and 92 respectively. Annual energy costs at these buildings have dropped about \$500,000 as a result of the upgrades. The reduced energy usage is equivalent to taking 394 cars off Denver's roads annually.

The third award-winning Energy Star® Building is the Johns Manville Plaza, owned by Prudential. The building, managed by Cushman and Wakefield, scored 75 on the Energy Star® bench marking tool. Through energy-efficiency improvements, energy expenses at the Manville Plaza were cut by about \$225,000. These reductions amount to removing 211 cars from metro area roads.

The Energy Star® Buildings program offers building owners and managers information and tools to reduce total energy use in their buildings. Using this whole-buildings approach to upgrades can mean a cut in total energy costs by 30 percent or more. Nationally, as of November, 1998, more than 2,800 Energy Star® Buildings participants had reduced their energy use by 22.4 billion kilowatt hours and prevented the emission of 35.5 billion pounds of carbon dioxide. If the Energy Star® Buildings upgrade approach was employed in every U.S. commercial and industrial building across the U.S., it would diminish carbon dioxide emissions by 35 percent -- the equivalent of removing 20 million cars from the nation's roads over the next decade.

"These Denver area Energy Star® Buildings partners are at the forefront in reducing their energy needs, saving money, and preventing pollution through strategic energy management and by employing energy-efficient technology," observed Jack McGraw, EPA's Deputy Regional Administrator. "The bronze Energy Star® plaque displayed in these buildings honors the efforts of organizations like Cushman and Wakefield, Amerimar and Prudential to cut pollution and preserve our natural resources. We encourage other building owners and managers to join them in making this sound investment in our future."

When fossil fuels such as coal, oil, or natural gas are burned to generate electricity, emissions such as carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides are released into the environment. These emissions lead to smog, acid rain, and global climate change. By installing energy-efficient technologies, participating companies reduce the amount of energy needed to power their facilities, which leads to less pollution, cleaner air and a healthier environment.

For information about other Energy Star® programs/participants and facts about their progress in the Energy Star® Buildings program, the Earth Day energy efficiency "virtual exposition" web site at <http://www.epa.gov/buildings> can be visited. On Tuesday, August 31, (7:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.) EPA will hold two seminars on how to qualify for the Energy Star® Label and the benefits of energy-efficient technologies. Both seminars will be held in EPA's Conference Center at 999 18th St. in downtown Denver. Contact Patty Weimerskirch at 303/312-6464 or via Email at weimerskirch.patty@epa.gov for details.

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EPA Takes Action on Billings/Laurel Air Quality Plan

RELEASE UPON REQUEST - July 20, 1999

Richard Long, EPA (303) 312-6005
Larry Svoboda, EPA (303) 312-6004
Laurie Ostrand, EPA (303) 312-6437

Denver - - EPA today announced it is proposing to partially approve the State of Montana's air quality plan, known as a State Implementation Plan (SIP). EPA applauds the State and the companies in the Billings and Laurel area for the efforts they have taken to reduce sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions in the area. Since EPA initially requested the State to revise the Billings/Laurel SIP, actual SO₂ emissions from companies have been cut in half and air quality has improved measurably.

The SIP shows how Billings and Laurel will meet national clean air standards and includes individual pollution control plans for each SO₂ source (e.g. chemical manufacturing facilities, refineries and power plants). Sulfur dioxide in the air can lead to breathing difficulty in asthmatics, worsen respiratory illnesses and contribute to other human health and environmental problems.

Agency officials said they will approve much of the State's plan to control or reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from seven industrial facilities in the area. Once EPA approves the State's sulfur dioxide control plan, it can be enforced by EPA and citizens, as well as the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

The Agency also announced that it will reject portions of the State's SO₂ plan because the plan allows more emissions from Montana Sulphur & Chemical Company's (MSCC's) tall stack than allowed under EPA's rules and because the SIP doesn't set SO₂ limits from refinery flares. However, recent improvements made voluntarily at MSCC have resulted in reduced emissions from the facility.

The Clean Air Act says that companies cannot build tall stacks as a way to meet air pollution standards. Otherwise, companies could avoid installing needed pollution control equipment by simply sending pollution downwind. This transported pollution can affect the air quality of other communities and poses health and environmental problems, including unhealthy levels of particulate matter in the air, acid deposition, and reduced visibility.

EPA contends it is important for both fairness and environmental protection concerns to apply these rules in a consistent manner. Companies not complying with the stack height regulations have an unfair competitive advantage over those that do. If Clean Air Act goals are to be achieved, each source and each local area must do its share to reduce emissions.

The Agency also will disapprove portions of the plan because it does not contain limits for sulfur dioxide gas emissions from flaring (at three refineries and two sulfur recovery plants). Flaring devices burn hazardous chemical compounds that would otherwise be emitted directly to the atmosphere; however, SO₂ emissions are released into the air as a result of this burning process. Flaring can be a potentially large source of SO₂ emissions.

Finally, EPA also announced it plans to prepare a federal plan to cover the disapproved parts of the State plan. EPA will publish a notice on the proposal in the Federal Register shortly, which covers EPA's complete action on the SIP. EPA will take public comment on the proposal before it is finalized.

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Engineers say Shattuck monolith is stable

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 30, 1999

Jim Hanley 303-312-6725
Eleanor Dwight 303-312-6813

DENVER Despite reports earlier this month to the contrary, the "monolith" at the Shattuck Superfund site is not shifting or subsiding according to an engineering report done for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency conducted by Morrison Knudsen (MK), a respected engineering and construction firm.

EPA's regional office commissioned the review after an assistant to EPA's superfund ombudsman from Washington, DC noted during a tour of the site on June 9th, what he characterized as subsidence, according to press reports.

However, MK's report to EPA yesterday noted, "...there is no imminent or ongoing threat to the embankment or the monolith due to settlement, subsidence, slope movement or erosion." Unevenness in riprap is not evidence of settlement or subsidence. A joint inspection was conducted with representatives from the engineering firms of EMSI and SC&A and the EPA. Their field inspection and document review was conducted in accordance with general civil engineering principles.

The inspection did not show depressions, open cracks, downslope bulges of loose materials, evidence of surface erosion, erosion of underlying materials through the riprap or signs of seepage. The inspectors noted that if subsidence were occurring, one or several of the above conditions would be present. Riprap is the term used for boulders and stones placed on a riverbank or engineered embankment to protect underlying materials and to prevent wind borne soil loss and water erosion.

According to contractors who worked on the site during the construction of the monolith, the surface under the riprap was never completely smooth. Placement of the riprap was done by excavator bucket and loader equipment. The design called for a minimum thickness of 18 inches for the riprap layer and at some points the thickness is above the 18 inch thickness required. As a result, there is not a smooth surface.

EPA is presently conducting a five year review of the remedy at the Shattuck site with the help of a firm with no previous connections to the site. A more in depth report will result from this review. A copy of the full report

completed on June 25 is available at the EPA records center.

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EPA Responds to Utah Newspaper's Criticism of Its TRI Program

Letter to the Editor - June 29, 1999

Editor, Deseret News:

A recent Deseret News editorial characterizes the US Environmental Protection Agency's Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) report as unfair to the mining industry. We recognize the industry's and Governor Leavitt's concerns about reporting metals contained in waste rock as toxic releases, and we are working to put this new information into context to better explain what the new figures mean to everyone.

Electrical power generators, coal and metal mining companies and chemical distributors are among the seven new industry sectors now required to annually report on the levels of toxic substances they release into the environment during operations. Some have said that the waste created by companies in these new sectors poses no threat to public health or the environment and need not be reported. We feel this statement is misleading. For instance, metal mining generates large quantities of waste rock which typically contains heavy metals (copper, arsenic, lead, etc.). These previously buried materials are exposed to the elements upon excavation and become susceptible to leaching by rain and snow. Ultimately, the leaching process can lead to ground and surface water sources contaminated with heavy metals and other toxic chemical pollution.

All States are required to participate in the TRI program and EPA presents the data objectively and without bias. Since EPA began publishing TRI data 11 years ago, communities, industries, individuals, government agencies and others have used the information to protect their air, water and land resources and to improve public health and worker safety throughout their communities. We do not suggest that releases reported by any company are illegal, nor are the figures meant to cause public alarm. Rather, TRI is a valuable tool that gives people crucial information about industry practices that could impact their health or environment.

Kerrigan Clough
Assistant Regional Administrator
EPA, Denver Office



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Spirit Lake Tribe receives \$200,000 Brownfields grant from EPA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 21, 1999

Kathie Atencio EPA (303) 312-6803
Joianne Buzan EPA (303) 312-6626
Jody Ostendorf EPA (800) 227-8917

Denver, CO The Spirit Lake Tribe in Fort Totten, ND received a \$200,000 grant today from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to support its redevelopment efforts. Selected as one of 57 sites nationwide to receive a Brownfields Pilot Grant, the tribe hopes to transform abandoned, contaminated landfills and buildings into economic opportunities.

Brownfields are idled or under-used industrial and commercial areas where redevelopment is complicated by possible environmental contamination. The uncertainties surrounding liability and cleanup costs can discourage reuse and development.

The Pilot targets two vacant buildings a former boarding school and a hospital and two landfills in the Fort Totten area. These brownfields currently constitute a public health and environmental hazard. They are also hindering redevelopment which is necessary for revitalization. This grant will provide much-needed support for the tribe's economic and community development goals.

To promote the Spirit Lake Nation's revitalization, the Brownfields project will focus on these primary goals and objectives:

Environmental Assessment: Perform a comprehensive Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) on the four properties in the pilot target area and conduct soil analyses on selected properties

Economic Development: Share the ESA information with lenders and developers to help educate them about actual vs. perceived contamination in the project area and to help obtain financial support for redevelopment projects

Community Outreach: Involve and inform the community of the Pilot's status and redevelop the properties to benefit the tribal population

The Spirit Lake Tribe has a population of 5,300 enrolled members and a non-native population of about 1,500. The nation encompasses 383 square miles of land and is located in northeastern ND. Nearly 70 percent of enrolled members are under 25 years, and the reservation's unemployment is 75 percent.

Brownfields funds are used to bring together community groups, investors, lenders, developers, and other affected parties to find ways to assess environmental problems at sites and leverage funding mechanisms to clean them up and return them to productive use. EPA has helped 250 communities nationwide leverage more than \$1 billion to clean up and redevelop abandoned properties - and created thousands of jobs as well.

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Westminster receives \$200,000 grant for revitalization and redevelopment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 21, 1999

Kathie Atencio EPA (303) 312-6803
Joianne Buzan EPA (303) 312-6626
Jody Ostendorf EPA (800) 227-8917

DENVER Westminster received a \$200,000 boost to its redevelopment efforts today from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Selected as one of 57 sites nationwide to receive a Brownfields Pilot Grant, the city hopes to restore its once-thriving economic base while preserving its historical identity.

Brownfields are abandoned, idled or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. The uncertainties surrounding liability and cleanup costs can discourage investors and developers.

Brownfields in south Westminster are currently hindering private investment and new development necessary for revitalization. This grant will provide much-needed support for the city's urban renewal goals.

To promote south Westminster's revitalization, the Brownfields project will focus on these primary goals and objectives in the pilot target area:

Environmental Assessment: Perform a comprehensive Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) on properties in the pilot target area and conduct soil analyses on selected properties

Economic Development: Share the ESA information with private investors, lenders, and developers to help educate them about actual vs. perceived contamination in the project area and to help obtain financial support for redevelopment projects

Environmental Justice: Enhance the quality of life of residents in the area by working with ethnic groups to identify and develop entrepreneurial opportunities

Community Outreach and Historical Identity: Develop long-term partnerships with the community and raise public awareness of the historical characteristics of the community. Work with the Westminster Historical Society and residents to define the history of the area.

The project area covers approximately 1 square mile with 72nd Avenue as its center. Based on recent surveys, residents strongly support redevelopment of the area to reestablish its position of prominence in the community. Over 90 percent of the survey respondents identified the redevelopment of rundown or abandoned commercial property as an important project.

Westminster, like many communities across America, is striving to keep growing while preserving its high quality of life. Not only is Westminster concerned with revitalizing older neighborhoods, but also with curbing water pollution and protecting farmland and green space. Along with the Brownfields program, Better America Bonds -- a tool in President Clinton's and Vice President Gore's "Livability Agenda," -- can help local communities like Westminster create healthy, livable communities and thriving economies.

Better America Bonds offer a creative way for states and communities to clean up Brownfields, preserve open space, create parks and improve water quality by purchasing and preserving wetlands, or creating forest buffers to protect streams. Bonding authority will be distributed directly to the communities through a competitive process. It will be run like the Brownfields program, which has helped 250 communities leverage more than \$1 billion to clean up and redevelop abandoned properties and created thousands of jobs as well.

The Brownfields Initiative and Better America Bonds go hand-in-hand -- preserving open space is a major goal of both programs. Whether this is done by cleaning up and redeveloping contaminated properties or by purchasing open space, the end result is more livable, healthy, thriving communities.

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U.S., Denver Water Board Settle Pollution Case

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 21, 1999

Carol Rushin, EPA (303) 312-6051
Marc Weiner, EPA (303) 312-6913
Mike Risner, EPA (303) 312-6890
News Office, EPA (303) 312-6780

DENVER - The Denver Water Board (DWB) will cut 80 percent of the wastewater it generates from vehicle washing and half of the hazardous waste from its painting operations as part of a settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency announced today.

The Board will spend at least \$775,000 to improve its management of wastewater and hazardous wastes and pay a \$48,000 civil penalty to settle complaints brought by Justice on behalf of EPA for alleged DWB violations of the Clean Water Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act which regulates hazardous waste.

The Board will spend an additional \$58,000 on streambank stabilization and improvements including tree and shrub planting in the Overland Section of the South Platte River Greenway.

The federal charges arose in 1997, after the Water Board disclosed pollution violations at its Westside Complex at 1600 West 12th Avenue to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and requested and received protection from penalties under Colorado's "self-audit" law. Under that law, companies that disclose and correct their own pollution problems receive no penalty from the State.

The federal government has an audit policy* as well for companies who self-report. While EPA can forgo the punitive portions of penalties, it often seeks to recover "profits" or economic benefit that companies may have accrued by not complying with the law. Additionally, under the federal policy, information about a company's pollution is public record. Under the State law, that information is privileged and not available to the public.

EPA policies, on the other hand, give the Agency the flexibility to negotiate for real environmental improvements like those obtained in this case.

Based on an investigation and inspections in May 1998, EPA alleged that since the early 1970s the Board had violated the Clean Water Act by discharging pollutants through floor drains to the South Platte River without a permit. DWB also violated the nation's basic hazardous waste law, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, by improperly handling and disposing of hazardous wastes including discharging paint wastes and sludges to the river, EPA alleged.

Under the consent decree lodged today, DWB will construct a new building to house a paint shop, spray booth, hazardous waste storage and car/truck wash. Using various recycling and waste reduction techniques, the new facility will generate half the hazardous waste of the old facility, only 20 percent of the current wastewater volume and will cut detergent use by 10 percent as well. These improvements will cost an estimated \$775,000, or about 90 percent of the total settlement.

"This settlement means that the Denver Water Board will place more emphasis on pollution prevention and produce less hazardous waste," said Lois J. Schiffer, Assistant Attorney General for Environment and Natural Resources in Washington. "That is good news for our environment."

"The environment *is* the winner here," said EPA's enforcement director in Denver Carol Rushin. "The area that received the bulk of this facility's waste will now be enhanced with the bank stabilization and other improvements. The new building will release a fraction of the wastes it formerly did. The Board will be doing some state-of-the-art pollution prevention. The Board is to be commended for its straight-forward approach to the concerns we identified," Rushin said.

The lodging of the decree in U.S. District Court in Denver begins a 30-day public comment period. If not delayed by responding to comments, the government can ask the Court to enter the decree. Once entered, the decree becomes effective and its agreed-upon timetables begin.

NOTE:

* Some 470 companies have disclosed potential violations at more than 1,880 facilities nationwide under that policy and EPA has granted penalty relief to 166 of those companies at 936 facilities to date.

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Public Hearing on EPA Clean Air Proposals

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 14, 1999

Vaughn Whatley, EPA (303) 312-6603
Anju Chugh, EPA (303) 312-7094
Jeff Houk, EPA (303) 312-6446

WHO

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will hold one of four national public hearings on the proposed "Tier 2" vehicle emissions standards and the proposed requirement to reduce the sulfur content in gasoline.

WHAT

EPA's proposed program for cleaner vehicles will provide cleaner, healthier air throughout the country by dramatically reducing harmful tailpipe emissions from passenger vehicles. Under this proposal, sport utility vehicles (SUV's), minivans and pick-up trucks will, for the first time, meet the same protective standards as cars. The Agency's proposal for cleaner fuels calls for reducing the sulfur content in gasoline to ensure the effective performance of the next generation of catalytic converters and other emissions control technology. Both proposed rules are designed to protect public health and the environment, provide maximum flexibility for manufacturers and maintain affordable driving choices for all Americans. EPA has worked closely with the auto and fuels industries, public health experts, environmental groups and states to develop this set of rules. Representatives from each of these groups are expected to offer testimony at the hearing.

WHEN

Tuesday, June 15, 10:00 a.m. (MDT)

WHERE

The location for the public hearing is the **Doubletree Hotel** at 3203 Quebec Street in Denver (across the street from

the old Stapleton International Airport). The session will take place in the Grand I Ballroom and is open to the public and media.

The hotel is about 7 miles from downtown Denver. To reach the hotel from downtown, take I-70 east to the Quebec Street exit. Go south on Quebec to Martin Luther King Boulevard (MLK); turn right on MLK Blvd. The hotel is on the intersection of Quebec and MLK Blvd.

WHY

On May 1, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed more protective tailpipe emissions standards for all passenger vehicles, including SUV's, minivans and pick-up trucks. The so-called Tier 2 proposal, which is subject to public comment before a final rule is issued later this year, marks the first time that SUVs and other light-duty trucks would be subject to the same national pollution standards as cars.

Simultaneously, EPA proposed reducing sulfur content in gasoline, which will cut dangerous pollutants and ensure the effectiveness of state-of-the-art emission control systems to be installed on new vehicles under the Tier 2 proposal. Both rules would be phased in starting in 2004.

NOTE:

EPA will hold a media availability session in the Crystal III Ballroom when the hearing recesses for lunch (estimated at 12:15 p.m.). In addition, Margo Oge, EPA's National Director of the Office of Mobile Sources, is scheduled to attend the hearing. Other national and regional EPA representatives will be on-hand to answer questions about the proposal.

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South Dakotans, Tribal people earn EPA honors

RELEASE AT WILL - June 4, 1999

Bill Murray, Jr. (303) 312-6401
Rich Lathrop (303) 312-6780
Jody Ostendorf (303) 312-7814

DENVER - - A team that solved a serious public health hazard on the Cheyenne Indian Reservation. A state employee who made a South Dakota drinking water program a model for other states. A Hutterite colony that helped educate the public and state inspectors about animal feeding operations.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will recognize these and other acts in its annual awards ceremony June 7 in Denver.

The "**Ridgeview Team**," including representatives from State, Federal and Tribal governments, managed to overcome numerous obstacles to solve a problem of raw sewage threatening public health for residents of Ridgeview on the reservation.

According to Nettie H. Myers, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) any of the parties could have ended the complex negotiations at any time and gone home. But they stuck with it and crafted an agreement. The result: a new wastewater treatment plant to be on line by 2000 that will solve the public health hazard at Ridgeview.

Team members include: **Jim Feeney** and **Mike Perkovich** of DENR in Pierre; **Harold Deering** of the Attorney General's office in Sioux Falls; **Deirdre Desmond** of the Cheyenne River Sioux in Eagle Butte; **Bob Reiss** with the Indian Health Service in Pierre and **David Schachterle** and **Pauline Afshar** from EPA's Denver office.

Andrea Griesse, a DENR engineer in Pierre is credited with drafting legislation, developing new rules and producing a manual that allowed South Dakota to be one of the first five states in the nation to implement new drinking water protections for its citizens. The 1996 amendments to the nation's Safe Drinking Water Act required that all new water systems demonstrate they had the needed technical, managerial and financial ability to deliver safe water. Processes Ms. Griesse developed assure that new systems provide safe water every day, right from the start.

Mike Waldner and the **Millerdale Hutterite Colony** near Miller worked with the DENR, the State Department of Agriculture and EPA to educate the public on how state agencies and the livestock industry are working together to protect South Dakota's water resources. The Colony feeds 11,625 swine and 120 dairy cattle and has an innovative manure management system and was the scene for much of an educational video that has been widely distributed in the state.

Jim Stone, Environmental Protection Director for the Yankton Sioux since 1994, will receive the A. Wade Vitalis Award for establishing the Tribe's environmental regulatory structure, program staff, solid waste management system and recycling center, and programs for water resources, wetlands and pesticides management. He is also credited with the identification and cleanup of lead and oil contamination at the Marty Indian School and with leadership during the controversy over the Lake Andes landfill.

The Vitalis award recognizes outstanding environmental protection work in Indian country and nominations must come from Tribes. Vitalis was one of the early architects of tribal environmental programs in the Region until his death in August 1996.

Cliff Johnson of the Yankton Sioux at Marty; **Clifford R. Peters** of the Flandreau Santee Sioux at Flandreau; and **Kim Clausen-Jensen** of the Oglala Sioux at Pine Ridge shared in an award to a 15-member committee that advises EPA in its dealings with 27 Native American Tribes and on environmental matters in Indian country within its Region. Clausen-Jensen chairs the committee.

EPA also recognized **Mary** and **Ron Meier** who are with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rapid Response Team at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. In South Dakota, the pair worked on the Fawick Park cleanup in Sioux Falls, meeting community needs, explaining the project to the public and finding cost savings in the cleanup. Between Fawick and a Utah project, Darling and Meier saved EPA an estimated \$1 million.

The South Dakotans and the Native Americans were among 59 groups or individuals EPA honored this year from South Dakota North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Utah and Colorado. Some 794 individuals, businesses and organizations have earned the Agency's recognition since 1980.

Regional Administrator Bill Yellowtail noted that EPA was recognizing "stars" for their outstanding contributions, "the people who cherish and help communities protect the unique mountains, plains and canyons" that make up EPA's Region 8.

EDITORS:

For more details on any awardee, please contact his or her nominator:

The Ridgeview Team - - DENR's Nettie Myers (605) 773-5559

Andrea Griesse - - DENR's Nettie Myers (605) 773-5559

Mike Waldner et al - - DENR's Nettie Myers (605) 773-5559

Jim Stone - - Kathy Dolan, EPA (303) 312-6497

Johnson/Peters/Clausen-Jensen - - Judy Hervig, EPA (303) 312-6290

Darling/Meier - - Duc Nguyen, EPA (303) 312-6509

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Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Utahns, Tribal people earn EPA honors

RELEASE AT WILL - June 3, 1999

Bill Murray Jr. (303) 312-6401
Rich Lathrop (303) 312-6780
Jody Ostendorf (303) 312-7814

DENVER - - Utah projects to recycle more used oil, spread environmental education in 325 schools and expand the use of "biosolids" were among efforts that earned achievement awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this year. Winners will be recognized at a June 7 ceremony in Denver.

EPA will recognize the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (UDEQ) **Used Oil Recycling Program** for establishing collection centers, steering committees and contracts with local health departments throughout the State. Staffers **Sandy Hunt, David Wheeler, Kathy Lundy** and program manager **Cheryl Prawl** created an 800 information number, videos, brochures, radio spots and other techniques to boost recycling of used motor oil. In a 1995-96 effort, they collected more than 89,000 gallons through a free pick-up program with farmers and ranchers.

The Utah **Society for Environmental Education** and executive director **Tim Brown** drew a nod for a newsletter, "The Web" which delivers information to about 3,600 readers and 325 schools on topics such as hazardous waste, recycling, re-use, ecosystems, gardening and sustainability.

UDEQ's **Mark Schmitz** has made the state a leader in management of biosolids, or residues that remain after modern sewage treatment. Schmitz was credited with expanding the beneficial uses of biosolids such as compost, reclamation and landfill cover in Utah from 20 percent in 1992 to 80 percent and growing in 1999.

EPA saluted UDEQ engineer **Timothy Beavers** for 11 years of working to assure that disadvantaged businesses and those owned by women and minorities received a fair share of contract and subcontract work on environmental improvement projects in the state.

Justin Dolling, an employee of Utah's Department of Natural Resources at the Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area, saved taxpayers hundreds, perhaps thousands of dollars by speeding a sampling project. With his knowledge of the Waterfowl Area, he was able to pilot EPA staff to 15 locations on Farmington Bay and the Great

Salt Lake. Samplers were trying to learn whether contaminants from sludges in the Northwest Oil Drain were reaching the Bay and Lake.

Steve Poulsen from DEQ and former DEQ employee **Bill Townsend** applied special skills in meeting the needs of some 600 residents in the "Superfund" cleanup of lead-in-soil contamination in Midvale, Utah and smoothly managed six contracts totaling nearly \$25 million on that project.

Cost savings also figured in EPA's recognition of **Mary Darling** and **Ron Meier** who are with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rapid Response Team at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. In Utah, the pair worked on the Herriman residential cleanup project, resolving many local concerns, explaining cleanup actions to residents and finding less expensive ways to complete aspects of the cleanup. Between Herriman and a South Dakota project, Darling and Meier have saved EPA an estimated \$1 million.

Elaine Willie of the Ute Indian Tribe at Ft. Duchesne and **David Tillson** of the Skull Valley Band of Goshutes, shared in an award to a 15-member committee that advises EPA in its dealings with 27 Native American Tribes and on environmental issues in Indian country within its Region.

The Utahns and the Native Americans were among 59 groups or individuals EPA honored this year from Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. Some 794 individuals, businesses and organizations have earned the Agency's recognition since 1980.

Regional Administrator Bill Yellowtail noted that EPA was recognizing "stars" for their outstanding contributions, "the people who cherish and help communities protect the unique mountains, plains and canyons" that make up EPA's Region 8.

EDITORS:

For additional detail on any awardee, please contact his or her nominator:

Used oil recycling program - - Dennis Downs (801) 538-6170
Utah Society for Env. Education - - Tim Brown (801) 328-1549
Mark Schmitz - - Donald Hilden (801) 538-6146
Timothy Beavers - - Maurice Velasquez (303) 312-6862
Justin Dolling - - Russell LeClerc (303) 312-6693
Poulsen/Townsend - - Bert Garcia (303) 312-6247
Darling/Meier - - Duc Nguyen (303) 312-6509
Willie/Tillson - - Judy Hervig (303) 312-6290

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South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

North Dakotans, Tribal people earn EPA honors

RELEASE AT WILL - June 3, 1999

Rich Lathrop (303) 312-6780
News Office 1-800-227-8917

DENVER - - Two North Dakota Health Department employees who built a landmark asbestos prosecution and three Native Americans who advise the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional office in Denver on tribal environmental issues will receive awards from EPA in a June 7 ceremony in Denver.

Environmental engineer **Ken Wangler** and scientist **Jane Kangas**, both of Bismarck, provided the foundation for the State's enforcement case against a Wahpeton contractor for violations of state and federal asbestos, solid waste and hazardous waste rules. The contractor had removed hundreds of linear feet of asbestos-containing material in a Wahpeton renovation project, stored the material improperly and finally dumped it in a warehouse dumpster.

The State settled the case in January of this year, exacting the largest civil penalty for asbestos violations in the state's history, \$225,000, plus restitution, cleanup and surrender of the contractor's license for seven years. Asbestos can cause lung cancer and other respiratory diseases.

Silas Ironheart of the Spirit Lake Nation, Ft. Totten; **Jim Heckman** of the Three Affiliated Tribes of Ft. Berthold at New Town; and **Rhonda L. Azure** of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewas at Belcourt shared in an award to a Tribal committee that advises EPA. The 15-member group works to enhance environmental protection in Indian country.

The North Dakotans and Native Americans were among 59 groups or individuals EPA honored this year from North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado. Some 794 individuals, businesses and organizations have earned the Agency's recognition since 1980.

Regional Administrator Bill Yellowtail noted that EPA was recognizing "stars" for their outstanding contributions, "the people who cherish and help communities protect the unique mountains, plains and canyons" that make up EPA's Region 8.

EDITORS:

For more details on any awardee, please contact his or her nominator:

Wangler/Kangas - - Francis Schwindt (NDDH) (701) 328-5152
and Dana Mount (NDDH) (701) 328-5188

Ironheart/Heckman/Azure - - Judy Hervig (EPA) (303) 312-6780

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Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
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Shoshone, Wind River reps earn EPA honors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 2, 1999

Paul Felz, EPA (303) 312-6270
Jody Ostendorf, EPA 1-800-227-8917

Denver, CO -- The creator of Wyoming's first wetland wastewater treatment system will be recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for her outstanding initiatives to protect water quality on the Wind River Reservation.

Carolyn Worthington, manager of the Shoshone Utility Organization for the Shoshone Tribe for over 10 years, will receive a "Friend of U.S. EPA" award at a ceremony Monday, June 7 at the Marriott City Center in Denver. Worthington's efforts have improved the quality of life for her customers, her Tribe, and other Indian and non-Indian communities throughout the region, and even outside the region.

Among her many successes, Worthington initiated a regional training center at the facility. There, her staff and industry peers learned innovative approaches to achieving and maintaining compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act. At every possible opportunity, she presented her experiences at workshops and conferences so others could benefit. In addition, she continuously advised EPA on how to best provide compliance assistance to utilities.

Worthington volunteered to assist EPA in developing its Capacity Development and Tribal Set-Aside Construction programs. She also coordinated with multiple agencies to obtain funding for a series of much-needed expansions of the Shoshone facility.

Worthington was one of 59 individuals and five groups from WY, CO, MT, ND, SD and UT to receive awards this year.

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Coloradans, Tribal people earn EPA honors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 2, 1999

Jody Ostendorf, EPA 1-800-227-8917

Denver, CO -- For initiatives that created employment opportunities for locals at their neighborhood Superfund site, improved recycling education, protected wildlife and water quality from oily waste, and effectively addressed perpetual indoor air problems at an elementary school -- and more -- the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will honor 13 Coloradans and individuals from the Ute Mountain and Southern Ute tribes at its annual awards ceremony Monday, June 7 at the Marriott City Center in Denver.

EPA will commend:

- University of Denver master's graduate **Jenni LeBlanc** and Colorado People's Economic and Environmental Network (COPEEN) staff member **Melissa Munoz**, for a training initiative that created high-paying employment opportunities for north-Denver residents at their neighborhood Superfund site. The program was developed as part of an EPA initiative designed to help get training for people living in disadvantaged communities affected by Superfund sites.
- **Annie Pollet**, Director of the San Juan Basin Recycling Association, for increasing recycling education and environmental awareness in southwestern Colorado. In one initiative, Pollet created a highly popular interactive recycling exhibit called "Trash Terminators." The exhibit -- designed for kindergarten through eight grade students -- debuted at the Children's Museum in Durango and traveled to Ignacio for Earth Week last April, to the delight of children from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the community.
- **Virgil Frazier**, Air Quality Specialist for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in Ignacio, for advancing the technical capabilities of the Tribe's Air Quality Control program. Using his background in control systems, Frazier converted air quality data collected over the past 10 years to an automated computer format, providing a valuable repository of information about airborne pollutants on the reservation and in the United States.
- **Robin Reade**, representing the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, whose support for EPA Region 8's Problem Oil Pit (POP) program has resulted in tangible environmental benefits. The POP effort

has ensured that hundreds of oil production and oily waste management facilities now manage oil wastes in an environmentally sound manner. Through her work with the POP team, Reade has helped prevent migratory bird deaths while protecting wetlands, surface and ground waters, and other natural resources.

- **Jim Anderson**, owner/operator of Anderson Farms and Cattle Company, for innovative water and soil conservation initiatives which balance modern farming methods with a healthy environment for wildlife. Through exemplary land stewardship, Anderson has enhanced soil productivity, increased crop yields and decreased erosion. His environmentally-sound business practices are a model example of how protecting natural resources can reduce labor costs while improving cattle and crop performance.
- **Carl Lucero**, Natural Resource Conservation Service Liaison to Region 8 EPA, for providing a vital link for EPA's partnership with NRCS on agricultural, non-point source pollution and community-based environmental protection programs. Lucero's outstanding contribution to both agencies -- through presentations, briefings, outreach and coordination of diverse program activities -- has provided important benefits to the environment and the agricultural community.
- **Joseph Vranka**, Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment Project Officer for outstanding leadership as an EPA partner overseeing of the Lowry Landfill Superfund sitewide cleanup. The Lowry Site project is complicated, involving technical issues that are unique, complex and politically-sensitive. Vranka's technical competence and effectiveness in working with diverse interests have greatly contributed to the site's cleanup progress.
- **Cindy Crist** of the Ute Mountain and **Cheryl Weiscamp** of the Southern Ute Indian Tribes were among 15 tribal members honored for working with EPA on the Tribal Regional Operations Committee, a nationally recognized group aimed at enhancing environmental protection in Indian country.
- **Dr. Sheri Williams, John Dodson, Art Benton, Carol O'Brien, Liz Stieren, Megan Tilley and Dave Christensen**, Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Steering Committee members at King-Murphy Elementary School in Evergreen, for being the first school in EPA's Region 8 to implement the IAQ Tools for Schools program, which is designed to correct perpetual indoor air quality problems. Due to the committee's leadership and ingenuity, the school adopted policies which exceeded the program's scope to address hazardous waste, drinking water and energy efficiency issues.

The Coloradoans and Southern Ute and Ute Mountain individuals were among five groups and 59 individuals from CO, WY, UT, ND, SD and MT to receive awards this year. Some 794 individuals, businesses and organizations have earned the Agency's recognition since 1980.

Regional Administrator Bill Yellowtail noted that EPA was recognizing "stars" for their outstanding contributions, "the people who cherish and help communities protect the unique mountains, plains and canyons" that make up EPA's Region 8.

Editors: For more information on an awardee, please contact his/her nominator:

Jenni LeBlanc, Melissa Munoz -- Nola Cooke (303) 312-6599
Annie Pollet -- Cheryl Wiescamp (970) 563-0135
Virgil Frazier -- Cheryl Wiescamp (970) 563-0135
Robin Reade -- Corbin Darling (303) 312-6426
Jim Anderson -- Roger Dean (303) 312-6947
Carl Lucero -- Doris Sanders (303) 312-6361
Joseph Vranka -- Marc Herman (303) 312-6724

Cindy Crist, Cheryl Weiscamp -- Judy Hervig (303) 312-6290
Sheri Williams et al. -- Megan Williams (303) 312-6431

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Montanans, Tribal people earn EPA honors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 2, 1999

Jody Ostendorf, EPA 1-800-227-8917

Denver, CO -- For initiatives that improved drinking water quality, promoted sustainable land-use practices, increased protection from contaminants on Indian reservations -- and more -- the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will honor six Montanans and two individuals from the Chippewa Cree and Blackfeet tribes at its annual awards ceremony Monday, June 7 at the Marriott City Center in Denver.

EPA will commend:

- **Gerald Wagner**, Blackfeet Environmental Programs Director, who received the Frank DeCoueteau Award for his leadership in building partnerships among diverse groups on the reservation to provide safe drinking water. In East Glacier, where a boil order has been in effect for 11 years due to giardia contamination, Wagner facilitated an agreement between the Tribe, the city, the health agency and EPA to install a new water supply and treatment system. He also obtained funding from the Tribal Drinking Water Revolving Fund to assist with the construction.
- **Loretta Russette**, Tribal Lead Coordinator for the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation, who received the Frank DeCoueteau Award for greatly increasing awareness of lead contamination hazards on the reservation. Russette also wrote the initial proposal to be considered as a site for the Children's Health Champion Pilot Project thru EPA. It was one of 10 chosen nationwide.
- **Gary Gingery**, of the Montana Department of Agriculture, whose exemplary service over 28 years expanded and intensified the critical partnership between EPA and state agricultural departments. He has provided much-valued input and leadership on issues such as pesticide use, sales and regulations, and implementation of the Endangered Species Act. Gingery's contribution to advancing state/federal relations has been a key component in the success of current programs.
- **Ray and Sue Marxer**, owner/operators of the Matador Cattle Company in Dillon, MT for exemplary initiatives to integrate sustainable rangeland management with wildlife conservation. The Marxer's innovative

grazing system, support for data collection on riparian restoration projects, and significant public outreach have fostered an unusually productive relationship among the ranching community, the public and state environmental, wildlife and agricultural agencies.

- o **Mike Field and Don Mittelstaedt** of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality for leadership in water quality data management. Their work has heightened appreciation among EPA's state partners that water quality data gathering is a valuable investment. Also, their work has made Montana DEQ one of the first agencies in the nation to make existing water quality data available to the public on the Internet.
- o **Mary Capdeville**, Special Assistant Attorney General at the MT Department of Environmental Quality, for her dedication and hard work in ensuring the protectiveness and compliance of EPA's cleanup plan for the Clark Fork River Basin Superfund site near Butte and Anaconda. ARCO, the site's liable party, fought EPA on every aspect of its cleanup plan and Capdeville addressed each of ARCO's arguments in a thorough, fair and defensible manner to ensure that the plan was protective of public health and the environment.
- o **Deb Madison** of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, **Bill Swaney** of the Confederated Salish-Kootenai and **Gerald Wagner** of the Blackfeet Tribe were among 15 tribal members honored for working with EPA on the Tribal Regional Operations Committee, a nationally recognized group aimed at enhancing environmental protection in Indian country.

The Montanans and the Assiniboine, Sioux, Confederated Salish-Kootenai, Chippewa Cree and Blackfeet individuals were among five groups and 59 individuals from MT, WY, ND, SD, UT and CO to receive awards this year. Some 794 individuals, businesses and organizations have earned the Agency's recognition since 1980.

Regional Administrator Bill Yellowtail noted that EPA was recognizing "stars" for their outstanding contributions, "the people who cherish and help communities protect the unique mountains, plains and canyons" that make up EPA's Region 8.

Editors: For more information on an awardee, please contact his/her nominator:

Gerald Wagner -- Deb Madison (406) 768-5155
Loretta Russette -- Sarah Eagle-Horse (303) 312-6444
Gary Gingery -- Ralph Peck (406) 444-3144
Ray and Sue Marxer -- Roger Dean (303) 312-6947
Mike Field and Don Mittelstaedt -- Martin McComb (303) 312-6963
Mary Capdeville -- Henry Elsen (406) 444-0486
Deb Madison, Bill Swaney, Gerald Wagner -- Judy Hervig (303) 312-6290

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EPA issues compliance order against developers for water quality violations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 1, 1999

John Brink EPA (303) 312-6214
Marc Weiner EPA (303) 312-6913
Jody Ostendorf EPA (303) 312-7814

DENVER - - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently issued a compliance order against two out-of-state resort developers who allegedly violated the Clean Water Act by bulldozing dirt and rock into Cebolla Creek, and adjacent wetlands and tributaries near Powderhorn in Gunnison County. If left uncorrected, Louisiana residents Thomas and Mary Ann Redd face civil penalties of up to \$27,500 per day for each day the fill remains in place.

"EPA is taking this action to protect Cebolla Creek from being polluted by fill material that was graded down to the water's edge to build a lodge, and to prevent further harm to water quality in the stream," EPA Enforcement Director Carol Rushin said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers explained to the Redds their regulatory responsibilities under the CWA in the spring of 1998, yet the Redds proceeded with the work, directly harming water quality in Cebolla Creek. Increased sedimentation in the creek can choke aquatic life, erode streambanks and degrade the entire river corridor.

EPA's order requires the Redds to remove the fill deposited in the creek and on its banks under the supervision of a qualified wetland scientist. The material must be moved upland, out of the floodplain, and stabilized so it cannot wash back into the creek.

The Redds have 15 days from the date they receive EPA's notice to begin removing the fill that poses the greatest threat to water quality. The order also bars further discharges and requires a delineation of wetlands and other waters impacted by any work they have done -- and intend to do -- to complete their development. Delineation determines the wetlands' boundaries by its three crucial elements: hydrology, vegetation and soils.

In addition to immediate concerns for removing and stabilizing the soil and rock that were pushed down the river

bank and into the creek, EPA has long-term concerns about the full impact of the Redds' proposed development on Cebolla Creek, and its adjacent wetlands and tributaries. The year-round resort will include a lodge, triplex, caretaker unit and four cabins.

Property owners or contractors planning to do any stream alterations should always contact the nearest Corps of Engineers' regulatory office prior to starting work. For western Colorado, the Grand Junction office, (970) 243-1199, can determine whether a permit is required.

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Grants to fund low-interest loans for "brownfields" cleanups

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 25, 1999

David Ostrander (303) 312-6931
Rich Lathrop (303) 312-6780

DENVER -- Metro area cities and landowners with contaminated properties may soon be able to borrow money at 1 to 5 percent interest to finance environmental cleanups.

Vice President Al Gore will announce the new Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund later today at the White House Community Empowerment Conference in Edinburgh, Texas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will award 45 grants nationwide totaling \$30.6 million.

Locally, Denver and Englewood will each receive \$500,000, Lakewood and Loveland \$350,000 each. Those four and Commerce City, which received \$500,000 last year, will form the Colorado Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund. Colorado's Department of Public Health and Environment will administer the grant on behalf of the communities.

The grants are intended as seed money for the creation of larger revolving funds to finance cleanup of "brownfields," which are facilities or properties with real or perceived contamination from previous industrial uses. Such sites often pose no serious public health risk but uncertainties about liability, cleanup costs and financing may discourage investors and developers. Development then goes elsewhere and the brownfields become a drag on the local economy or blights in their communities.

The Colorado cities already have target areas in mind for redevelopment. Englewood plans work in its Central Industrial District. Lakewood's target is the West Colfax corridor. Denver is looking toward its northeast corner where several "Superfund" cleanup sites may be hindering development. Loveland will concentrate on pollution from an abandoned dry cleaning plant.

Brownfields grants are designed to boost redevelopment of under-used properties, increase local tax bases by reusing idle sites, create job opportunities when businesses and industry return and to act as clearinghouses for information on redevelopment.

Max Dodson, who directs EPA's Superfund program in six western states, sees the grants as a major breakthrough in providing financing for cleanups. "These grants mean a huge boost to the capability of local governments to finance cleanup and redevelopment and make these properties productive again. We are making the success of these projects one of our highest priorities," Dodson said.

For additional information on specific Colorado projects:

Dan Scheppers,
Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment
(303) 692-3398

[EPA Region 8 Brownfields Website](#)

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Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
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Grants to fund low-interest loans for Wyoming cleanups

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 25, 1999

David Ostrander (303) 312-6931
Rich Lathrop (303) 312-6780

DENVER - - Evanston and Kemmerer, Wyoming are in line to receive \$500,000 grants as seed money for a revolving loan fund to finance environmental cleanups in those communities and their surrounding counties.

Vice President Al Gore will announce the new Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund later today at the White House Community Empowerment Conference in Edinburgh, Texas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will award 45 grants nationwide totaling \$30.6 million.

The grants are intended as seed money for the creation of larger revolving loan funds to finance cleanup of "brownfields," which are facilities or properties with real or perceived contamination from previous industrial uses. Such sites often pose no serious public health risk but uncertainties about liability, cleanup costs and financing may discourage investors and developers. Development then goes elsewhere and the brownfields become a drag on the local economy or blights in their communities.

The Wyoming recipients already have specific target areas in mind for the funds. Evanston will focus on its Urban Renewal District including the historic rail facility with its roundhouse, machine shop and associated buildings. A secondary focus will be on cleaning up properties in Uinta County.

Kemmerer will focus on the city-owned power plant site and on properties in surrounding Lincoln County. Both towns expect to make two or three loans in the first round of lending.

Brownfields grants are designed to boost redevelopment of under-used properties, increase local tax bases by reusing idle sites, create job opportunities when businesses and industry return and to act as clearinghouses for information on redevelopment.

Max Dodson, who directs EPA's Superfund program in six western states, sees the grants as a major breakthrough in providing financing for cleanups. "These grants mean a huge boost to the capability of local governments to finance

cleanups and redevelopment and make these properties productive again. We are making the success of these projects one of our highest priorities," Dodson said.

For additional information on specific projects:

Evanston: Jim Davis (307) 783-6300

Kemmerer: John Roberts (307) 828-2350

[EPA Region 8 Brownfields Website](#)

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Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

EPA to Hold Public Meeting on Ground-water Study Results

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - - May 13, 1999

Carol Bowden, EPA (303) 312-6485
Eleanor Dwight, EPA (303) 312-6813
EPA Press Office (303) 312-6780
1-800-312-6312 ext. 6780

Denver – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will sponsor a public meeting to discuss its recent Vantage Acres ground-water study, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25, at the Community Baptist Church, 15559 Weld County Rd. 2, in Brighton.

The purpose of the meeting is to present sampling results and answer questions about EPA's study of nitrate and bacterial contamination in private wells in the area. A hydrologic study and well testing were done at the request of Vantage Acres citizens concerned about levels and sources of possible drinking water contamination.

Representatives of EPA, Weld County Health Department, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Colorado Rural Water Association will be present.

For more information, contact Weld County Health Department Environmental Office at (970) 353-6415.

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999 18th Street, Ste. 500
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Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

1999 Toxics Release Inventory Questions & Answers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 13, 1999

Jack Salter, EPA (303) 312-6026
Joyel Dhieux, EPA (303) 312-6447
Cheryl Turcotte, EPA (303) 312-6210

What is TRI?

- The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is an annual report of toxic chemical pollution released into the environment by businesses throughout the country. It is available so EPA, other levels of government and the public can analyze industries' progress toward reducing pollution. It also allows individuals to monitor contamination coming from facilities located near residential communities.

Why does EPA require companies to report their toxic releases?

- The need for this report stems from an accidental toxic gas release from a Union Carbide chemical plant in Bhopal, India, in 1984, where more than 2,500 people died. As a result of these and other accidents, more than 30 states now have laws that provide workers and residents with access to information about hazardous substances in their workplaces and communities. In 1986, Congress passed the Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) making previously voluntary reporting programs mandatory. Under EPCRA's Section 313, specific manufacturing facilities must annually report on their toxic releases into the air, land and water.

Are the releases dangerous to communities?

- The TRI information is not designed to show if chemical releases pose potential health or environmental hazards. Rather, the reports divulge how many pounds of chemicals companies release, dispose, treat, recycle, etc. EPA toxicologists, however, use TRI, and other data, to assess risks from some chemical releases.

Why should people care about the TRI?

- TRI helps communities with emergency planning. In addition, people have a right-to-know what substances companies produce and discharge into their environment. TRI acts as a tool communities can use to discover types and amounts of toxic chemicals released in or near their neighborhoods. If citizens object to chemical releases in their area, they can pressure facilities to use pollution prevention and source reduction techniques to decrease releases.

Who must report?

- Manufacturing facilities meeting all the following criteria must report:
 - facilities described within Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes 20-39, and
 - have 10 full-time employees or more (equivalent to 20,000 work hours/year) and
 - manufacture, handle or process 25,000 pounds or otherwise use 10,000 pounds per year of a toxic chemical listed under Section 313 of EPCRA.

What happens to companies that do not report toxic releases or fail to report properly?

- EPA may assess civil penalties for reporting violations. Any company owner or operator who violates the law is liable for up to \$27,500 a day for each violation. In addition, private citizens may file lawsuits to force a company to obey the law.

Does EPA use the information contained in the TRI to penalize companies for pollution violations?

- No. But EPA can use the data to verify if releases comply with a company's permits for air, waste and water. Also, the Agency uses TRI data to track industries' progress toward cutting or eliminating toxic chemical releases and wastes.

How does the pollution prevention aspect of the report work and why does EPA require it?

- As part of the 1990 Pollution Prevention Act (PPA), facilities must (previously optional) report pollution reduction and prevention activities. EPA added Section 8 to the standard TRI Form R report. This section requires facilities to report total releases; releases from catastrophic events; toxic materials recycled, converted into energy, or treated. Section 8 also requires facilities to report any activities they engage in to reduce pollution sources. This information allows businesses and communities to assess progress made at reducing toxic chemical use and production.

Has EPA recently added any chemicals to the required reporting list?

- In December 1994, EPA added 286 chemicals to EPCRA's Section 313 list. These chemicals were subject to reporting in the 1995 reporting year. About one-half of these chemicals are pesticides. In addition, several chemicals were removed from the TRI list in the 1993 & 1994 reporting years. The chemicals taken off the list were acetone, ammonium salts and liquid forms of hydrochloric and sulfuric acid.

Has EPA recently added any new industrial sectors to the list of those that must report? If so, when must those newly added sectors begin reporting their toxic releases?

- On April 22, 1997, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a rule that expanded industry reporting under the community right-to-know program. The rule increases by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to make public the levels of toxic chemicals they release into the air water and land in communities across the country.

The new rule requires about 6,100 new facilities (including electric utilities), in seven industrial sectors, to report their annual toxic releases beginning with the 1998 reporting year. With the addition of these new industrial sectors, a total of more than 31,000 facilities will publicly report their toxic emissions.

The seven new industrial sectors categories added under the right-to-know program are: metal mining, coal mining, electric utilities (those that use coal and oil as fuel), commercial hazardous waste treatment, petroleum bulk terminals, chemical distributors and solvent recovery services. These categories will join the 20 others already reporting on toxic releases. Companies within these industrial sectors must begin reporting in 1998; these figures are due to EPA by July 1, 1999.

May 13, 1999 Press Release:

[Region issues annual toxic chemical pollution report](#)

Last year's June 1998 Press Release:

[EPA's 1998 Regional Toxic Chemical Pollution Figures](#)

[Region 8 EPCRA/TRI Homepage](#)

If unable to reach the [technical specialists](#) listed at the top, contact:

Vaughn Whatley, EPA Press Office - (303) 312-6603

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Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
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Region issues annual toxic chemical pollution report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 13, 1999

Jack Salter, EPA (303) 312-6026
Joyel Dhieux, EPA (303) 312-6447
Cheryl Turcotte, EPA (303) 312-6210

Denver - -The Environmental Protection Agency today issued its annual report detailing how much chemical pollution is released into the air, discharged into water and disposed of as waste by certain U.S. manufacturing facilities. Nationally, the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) revealed total chemical releases of 2.6 billion pounds in 1997 (the most recent reporting year), compared to 2.5 billion pounds in 1996.

The TRI serves as a monitor of toxic chemicals released at a company's location (on site), treated, recycled or transferred elsewhere (off site), along with pollution prevention methods used. Included is a ranking of U.S. states based on the amount of chemicals released into the environment within their borders (in descending order, from the states with the most chemical releases to those with the least). The annual report, required under the 1986 Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, allows EPA, the states, businesses and the public to gauge industry's progress toward reducing toxic chemical pollution.

"Companies have discovered it's not only smart to prevent pollution before it damages the environment, it's also profitable because waste disposal costs are cut," said EPA's Regional Administrator Bill Yellowtail. "Those businesses that have adopted this philosophy should be commended and encouraged to continue."

Officials from EPA's Denver regional office observed that during 1997, some of their region's six states maintained or reduced their level of chemical releases and, as a result, moved down in rank or held their 1996 position. However, in the region, on-site releases of toxic chemicals showed a net increase, from about 152 million pounds in 1996 to 156 million pounds in 1997.

"Many businesses in our region are working to reduce, and even eliminate chemical pollution near residential communities," Yellowtail observed. "Yet, as the 1997 TRI report shows, work still needs to be done to prevent any erosion of past gains."

1997 TRI figures for states within Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) revealed:

- **Colorado** ranked 43rd nationally, one slot higher than the position it held in the 1996 report (44th). The 181 Colorado companies required to report, divulged that 4,507,112 pounds of toxic chemicals were released on site during 1997. This represents a slight decrease from the 4,589,824 pounds of on-site releases for 1996.
- **Montana** ranked 18th nationwide in the amount of toxic chemicals released, it retained the same position it held in 1996. Montana held its position despite a 13% decrease in on-site chemical releases, due to the decline in total on-site releases nationwide. The 29 facilities in the state reported releases of 42,131,345 pounds of pollutants in 1997, compared to 48,443,987 pounds in 1996.
- **North Dakota** facilities reported a small increase in total amounts of toxic chemicals released, emitted or discharged into the environment during the 1997 calendar year. The state ranked 48th nationwide, maintaining the position it held in the two previous years. The state's 34 facilities reportedly released 2,389,140 pounds of chemicals on site in 1997, compared to 2,322,354 pounds in 1996.
- **South Dakota** ranked 45th nationwide in the amount of toxic chemicals released on site in 1997. This ranking is two slots lower than the position it held in the 1996 report (43rd). The 69 companies that submitted reports disclosed that 4,094,744 pounds of toxic chemicals were released into the environment during 1997, compared to 5,059,769 pounds in 1996.
- **Utah** ranked 6th for the amount of toxic chemicals released on site in 1997; it ranked 7th in the previous year's report. The state's ranking moved up due to increase in total on-site releases. In 1997, a total of 143 facilities released 93,926,091 pounds of toxic chemicals into the environment, an increase from the 81,986,149 pounds of on-site releases in the 1996 calendar year.
- **Wyoming** ranked 36th nationwide in the amount of chemicals released in 1997, the same ranking it held in 1996. 32 Wyoming facilities reported a slight net decrease in the total amount of toxic chemicals released, emitted or discharged in 1997. Facilities reported on-site releases of 9,349,356 pounds in 1997, down from 9,634,592 pounds in 1996.

In April, 1997, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a rule that expanded industry reporting under the community right-to-know program. The rule increased by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to make public the levels of toxic chemicals they release into the air, water and land in communities across the country.

The new rule requires about 6,100 new facilities, in seven industrial sectors, to begin calculating and reporting their annual toxic releases for 1998. These figures are due to EPA by July 1, 1999. With the addition of these new industrial sectors, a total of more than 31,000 facilities will publicly report their toxic emissions.

“Community Right-to-Know tools, such as the TRI, help people to understand which types of hazardous chemicals are produced, used or stored in their communities and it encourages individuals and communities to become involved in how facilities use or dispose of these materials,” said Yellowtail. “The report provides citizens with critical information needed to help curb pollution and reduce health risks, while it also serves as a strong incentive for businesses to find innovative ways to prevent toxic pollution.”

The TRI is available in several formats. Many public libraries have the report and individuals can purchase it on CD-ROM or on computer diskette (contact Region 8 at 800/227-8917 for details). Free access to the data is available online at the EPA [Envirofacts Warehouse](#) The [Headquarters TRI website](#) and the [Region 8 Emergency Planning and](#)

[Community Right-to-Know Act \(EPCRA\) website](#) also offer valuable information for either the novice or experienced TRI user. EPA maintains a national technical hotline (800-535-0202) to help individuals and businesses understand the TRI and its reporting requirements.

TRI Questions and Answers:

[1999 Toxics Release Inventory Questions & Answers](#)

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International Smelting and Refining Site in Utah added to NPL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 23, 1999

David Williams EPA (303) 312-6757
Paula Schmittiel EPA (303) 312-6861
Nancy Mueller EPA (303) 312-6602

DENVER -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today proposed adding a former smelter to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites. The site, located approximately two miles northeast of Tooele, Utah, will be known as the International Smelting and Refining Site. This announcement begins a 60-day period during which those interested may send EPA their comments on the proposed listing.

The National Priorities List (NPL) is a published list of U.S. hazardous waste sites that are eligible for comprehensive cleanup under the Superfund program. Listing on the NPL makes the site eligible to receive federal funds for site characterization and cleanup while EPA seeks to recover costs from those responsible for the contamination. Placing the site on the NPL also allows EPA to use Superfund money for cleanup when there are no responsible parties who can pay for the work.

The International Smelting and Refining Site is located on the west flank of the Oquirrh Mountains near the mouth of Pine Canyon. Historically, the site was the location of a copper smelter which operated from 1910 until 1946. There was also a lead smelter operating at the site from 1912 through early 1972.

The site is approximately 1200 acres. Possible sources of contamination are tailings, metals-contaminated slag, settlings ponds, landfills and smelter wastes associated with site operations. Site investigations indicate the primary contaminants are arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury and zinc. A 1985 study documented dust blowing off tailings piles. EPA believes the contamination in the area may pose a risk to children and other sensitive individuals. The potential problem is serious enough to warrant federal Superfund involvement.

Listing of this site on the NPL provides immediate funding for cleanup work. Listing also guarantees the public an opportunity to participate in cleanup decisions.

Information that EPA used to document the proposed listing of the site is available at:

Tooele City Library
47 East Vine Street
Tooele, UT 84074
(435) 882-2182

Hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed: Sunday and Monday

Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ)
Division of Environmental Response and Remediation
1950 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4840
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

U.S. EPA Records Center
999 19th Street, 5th Floor
Denver, CO 80202-2466
(303) 312-6473
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m to 4:30 p.m.

People interested in commenting on the proposed NPL listing should send their original comments and three copies, postmarked no later than June 22, 1999, to:

Docket Coordinator,
Headquarters U.S. EPA; CERCLA Docket Office (5201G)
401 M Street SW
Washington, DC 20460
(703) 602-9232

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Brownfields Training Workshop: Sioux Falls, SD, Salt Lake City, UT and Denver, CO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 20, 1999

Terrie Boguski, KSU (913) 780-3328
Kathie Atencio, EPA (303) 312-6803

Denver, CO -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Great Plains/Rocky Mountain Hazardous Substance Research Center will present workshops in Sioux Falls, SD, Salt Lake City, UT and Denver, CO on "Assessment and Cleanup Strategies for Site Redevelopment Based on Intended Land Use and Risk Analysis." The workshop is free to government officials and members of citizen's groups who deal with Brownfields issues. The fee for all others is \$25 and early registration is encouraged. The workshops are scheduled as follows:

Sioux Falls, SD -- May 4, 1999
Salt Lake, UT -- June 3, 1999
Denver, CO -- July 8, 1999

Workshop participants will gain an overview of environmental assessment and cleanup strategies based on cost, risk and intended land-use goals.

Key topics will include:

- using decisions about costs, laws and risks to steer site assessment techniques and selection of cleanup strategy;
- designing streamlined, complete sampling strategies that meet EPA QA/QC requirements;
- understanding relationships among cleanup options, risk and redevelopment economics; and
- learning methods used to select a cleanup strategy

The workshop will be especially helpful for local government officials responsible for activities funded by EPA Brownfields grants, property owners, interested citizens, developers, financiers, regulators and environmental contractors. It is tailored specifically for local governments and those who hire contractors to perform site

characterizations and recommend cleanup options.

To register, call Kansas State University Continuing Education at (785) 532-5569 or visit the HSRC web site at: <http://www.engg.ksu.edu/HSRC>. For more information call Terrie Boguski at (913) 780-3328.

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EPA's Denver Office honors National Jewish Hospital for energy conservation efforts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 19, 1999

Patty Weimerskirch EPA (303) 312-6464
Vaughn Whatley EPA (303) 312-6603
News Office EPA (800) 227-8917

Denver --National Jewish Hospital in Denver received an award today for reducing the amount of harmful air pollutants released into the atmosphere through its participation in EPA's Energy Star BuildingsSM Partnership, the Agency's Denver Regional Office announced.

This voluntary effort reduces air pollution by eliminating wasted energy in commercial and industrial buildings. Program partners, such as National Jewish, actually save money by cutting energy consumption, while decreasing their releases of greenhouse gases that lead to global warming. Participants accomplish these feats by upgrading their buildings with energy-efficient lighting, heating, cooling, and ventilation equipment.

Nationally, as of November, 1998, more than 2,800 Energy Star Buildings participants had reduced their energy use by 22.4 billion kilowatt hours and prevented the emission of 35.5 billion pounds of carbon dioxide. If the Energy Star Buildings upgrade approach was employed in every U.S. commercial and industrial building across the U.S., it would diminish carbon dioxide emissions by 35 percent the equivalent of removing 20 million cars from the nation's roads over the next decade.

"With the approach of Earth Day, this is the perfect time to reflect upon the successes our Energy Star partners have had in reducing their energy needs, saving money, and preventing pollution through strategic energy management and by employing energy-efficient technology," observed Judith Wong, EPA's Regional Pollution Prevention Director. "We want to recognize the contributions made by organizations like National Jewish Hospital to cut pollution and preserve our natural resources."

When fossil fuels such as coal, oil, or natural gas are burned to generate electricity, emissions such as carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides are released into the environment. These emissions lead to smog, acid rain, and global climate change. By installing energy-efficient technologies, participating companies reduce the

amount of energy needed to power their facilities, which leads to less pollution, cleaner air and a healthier environment.

For information about other Energy Star programs/participants and facts about their progress in the Energy Star Buildings program, visit the Earth Day energy efficiency "virtual exposition" web site at <http://www.epa.gov/buildings>.

[Region 8 Pollution Prevention Website](#)

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Williams Pipeline Co. Disposal Pit site deleted from the Superfund National Priorities List

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 7, 1999

Dennis Jaramillo, EPA (303) 312-6580
Mark Lawrensen, SD DENR (605) 733-5868
EPA News Office 1-800-227-8917 x 6780

Denver (CO) - On April 2 the Environmental Protection Agency removed from its Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) the [Williams Pipe Line Disposal Pit \(WPL\) site](#) in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. EPA and the State of South Dakota are satisfied that the cleanup has been completed.

The company burned wastes at the site until the early 1970s in an unlined disposal pit. In the fall of 1987, EPA assessed possible soil and ground-water contamination resulting from disposal pit operation.

The initial investigation determined numerous hazardous substances were present. As a result, EPA added the site to the NPL in August 1990. Further EPA investigation determined arsenic in ground water was the major contaminate of concern. Interception trenches and recovery wells at the facility boundaries have kept the arsenic-contaminated ground water from migrating off site. South Dakota's Department of Natural Resources (DENR) investigated petroleum releases at the site and continues to oversee cleanup of the petroleum related contamination.

EPA and the State are satisfied that cleanup activity at the site protects human health and the environment. The notice officially deleting the site was published in the Federal Register April 2, 1999.

For more information, contact:

Dennis Jaramillo, Project Manager
EPA Region 8 (EPR-SR)
999 18th Street, Suite 500
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(303) 312-6580

1-800-227-8917 ext. 6580 (in Reg. 8 only)

Email: jaramillo.dennis@epa.gov

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EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

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Mark Lawrensen

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Students and teacher awarded for environmental education initiatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 6, 1999

Attention: Education Editor

Fran Wiscamb (303) 312-6613
CeCe Forget (303) 312-6605
Jody Ostendorf (303) 312-7814

Denver - - Carol Browner, U.S. EPA Administrator, and possibly Vice President Al Gore, will recognize Place Middle School students and their faculty sponsor for winning the 1998 President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) at an April 15th ceremony for all PEYA award winners in Washington, D.C. The students developed an outdoor classroom and initiated several environmental education projects.

The PEYA program encourages kids to learn about their environment and create strategies for improving their community's public and environmental health. Projects compete regionally and nationally and are judged by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on impacts, benefits, how environmental needs were met and other criteria. Pattyanne Corsentino, the "Tiger Team's" teacher/sponsor, and 10 student team representatives will travel to D.C. to attend the ceremony.

The students' first accomplishment was designing and building an outdoor classroom. Place Middle School was built on a landfill and the students' future "classroom" was a vacant lot overrun with weeds, with one tree. Students worked with a landscape architect to design the space and select plants. They identified partners such as the U.S. Forest Service, Denver Digs and Denver Urban Resources Partnership. Fund raising efforts yielded materials for a garden, which was dedicated on June 4th 1998.

Students planned an "outdoor adventure" for 600 Denver-area elementary school students, inviting them to the outdoor classroom to have fun learning about nature. Participants learned about non-point source pollution, pond and creek wildlife, making recycled paper, dissecting owl pellets, fishing and more at 12 hands-on learning stations.

The Tiger Team chose Cherry Creek, which runs in front of Place Middle School, for their Earth Force project. Earth

Force is a Pew Foundation grant-funded program that promotes experience for 10-14 year-old kids in community problem solving and environmental action. The students' project included adopting a section of the creek for clean-up, making the creek wheelchair accessible, and increasing awareness among Cherry Creek path users of the riparian habitat's value and the consequences of human impacts.

Of the 14 Denver metro area schools participating in the Earth Force program, Place Middle School was invited to sponsor the Earth Force Summit. Students from all over met at the school's outdoor classroom to share and celebrate their different projects. The summit activities were videotaped for inclusion in Earth Force's national video on its Community Action & Problem Solving (CAPS) program.

"The students' motivation goes beyond themselves," Pattyanne Corsentino said. "They love doing something for others and sharing their excitement about the natural world around them. Academically, we also see dramatic improvements in testing (reading levels improved at least two grade levels for many of them), attendance and behavior. Many of my students carry their service activities beyond school and volunteer in the community,"she continued.

The awards ceremony will take place in the Indian Treaty Room of the Olo Executive Office Building at 10 a.m. For more information about PEYA and/or the Earth Force program, contact Place Middle School's Tiger Team sponsor Pattyanne Corsentino at (303) 758-6111 or EPA's environmental education assistant [Fran Wiscamb](#) by Email or at (303) 312-6613.

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Additional Sampling of Western Tier Parcel at Rocky Mountain Arsenal

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - March 31, 1999

RMA COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Diane Sanelli, EPA (303) 312-7822
Ruth Mecham, US Army (303) 289-0337
Holly Mangers, CDPHE (303) 692-3310
Dan Collins, Tri-County Health Dept. (303) 288-6816
Debbie Long, USFWS (303) 289-0633

DENVER - - The organizations responsible for the cleanup of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal agreed to conduct additional sampling before completing deletion of the Western Tier Parcel (WTP) from the National Priorities List. The WTP consists of approximately 815 acres of land along the western boundary of the Arsenal and Quebec Street in Commerce City, CO.

This additional sampling is intended to increase confidence in the safety of the land for all potential, reasonably anticipated uses. The Western Tier Parcel is being proposed for deletion from the Arsenal. The property is being considered for redevelopment as part of Commerce City's land use plan to include recreational uses such as a park, ballfields, trails and potential commercial uses. The parcel will be sold by the federal government at fair market value to provide funding for a visitor/learning center for the future Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Concerns surfaced when it was learned that Commerce City's commercial zoning ordinance allows for child daycare facilities.

"The decision for additional sampling does not set any precedent that could affect other aspects or adequacy of the remedy for the Arsenal, as it is set out in the On-Post Record of Decision and other documents and agreements," said Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 Administrator William Yellowtail.

All the parties are working to jointly develop a clearly defined sampling plan.

"If this land were developed as a daycare center in the future, we want the utmost confidence that children playing in

a sandbox are safe," continued Yellowtail. "EPA and the other parties are committed to moving forward with the cleanup for the remainder of the Arsenal."

The Arsenal, located 10 miles northeast of downtown Denver, is the largest Department of Defense Superfund site. Parties involved in its cleanup are the U.S. Army, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Shell Oil Company, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Tri-County Health Department.

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1999 Environmental Institute for Teachers Announced

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - March 4, 1999

CeCe Forget (303) 312-6605
Pauline Afshar (303) 312-6267
Jody Ostendorf (303) 312-7814

Denver -- Teachers from CO, MT, ND, SD, UT and WY who would like to incorporate environmental education into their 7-12th grade curricula are invited to the 1999 Environmental Institute for Teachers July 12-17 in Alta, UT.

In support of this year's theme, "Achieving Excellence in Environmental Education," workshop participants will earn university credit while sharpening their ability to teach about the environment. Teachers will learn how to develop techniques for student-based investigations, and strengthen critical-thinking, decision-making and problem-solving skills. They will be exposed to issues concerning Superfund and sustainability, and learn more about national environmental education efforts.

Hosted by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Utah Society for Environmental Education and the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, the week-long workshop was designed by teachers for teachers. Alta's gorgeous mountain setting offers an exciting opportunity for teachers to network while learning new environmental education techniques.

Participants are expected to develop a project in their school or community that actively increases environmental awareness. Paid lodging, meals, stipends and limited travel scholarships are available based on need.

Applicants must submit a one-page application and a one-page narrative signed by the school principal indicating support for their attendance. For further questions and/or an application, Visit the [Teacher Institute Website](#) or contact Pauline Afshar:

by Phone at (800) 227-8917 Ext. 6267
by Email: afshar.pauline@epa.gov

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Forwarded by EPA Region 8 from

**U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Montana
P.O. Box 1478
Billings, Montana 59103**

Balko, Inc. found guilty of criminal environmental violations in Helena, MT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - March 2, 1999

CONTACT:

Sherry Scheel Matteucci, United States Attorney
(406) 657-6101

Kris McLean, Assistant United States Attorney
(406) 542-8851

EPA contact: Barbara Conklin
(303) 312-6407

A Montana oil field management company and its president were found guilty of criminal environmental violations in Helena, Montana on Wednesday, February 24, 1999 after a jury trial in United States District Court before the Honorable Charles C. Lovell.

John J. Balkenbush and his company, Balko, Inc., of Conrad, Montana were convicted of violating the requirements of the underground injection control program for the State of Montana authorized by the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 USC § 300h) and for aiding and abetting others to violate the Act (18 USC § 2). The defendants were charged with injecting wastes and waste waters into abandoned oil production wells.

Balkenbush and Balko disposed of waste production fluids generated from their contract management of the oil wells owned by Ballard and Associates in Pondera County, Montana. The disposals occurred into three abandoned oil wells on the Ballard oil lease over a period of years

and several times a month, even though tested, approved and permitted underground injection wells were available to the company for disposal of waste fluids. Ballard and Associates were cited and fined by the State of Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation for the violations in 1997.

Fred Burnside, Special Agent in Charge of the Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigation Division Area Office in Denver said "The protection of the public drinking water sources through the investigation of criminal violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act is one of the highest priorities of the EPA's criminal enforcement program."

The underground injection control program of the Safe Drinking Water Act was established to protect underground sources of drinking water from contamination by industrial operations. No determination has yet been made whether the actions of the defendants resulted in contamination.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kris McLean who is the environmental crimes coordinator for the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Montana. Mr. McLean said "it is important to all of us in Montana to maintain the quality of our water and we will do what is necessary and appropriate to make sure that the law which protects everyone is respected."

Balkenbush faces a maximum sentence of up to three years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$250,000. His company, Balko, could be fined up to \$500,000. Sentencing is set for May 27 at 10:00 in Helena.

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Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

"Our Footprints are all over the place"

Opinion / Editorial - February 5, 1999

by David Schaller

The word "footprint" offers us many richly symbolic images: Neil Armstrong's "one small step"; Crusoe's Friday; Sandburg's fog that comes "on little cat's feet"; the Olduvai tracks of *Australopithecus*; and yes, even the caution expressed by my elementary school teacher to stay away from "Big Feet" - the junior high kids on the play ground who loved to torment first and second graders.

Let's consider another type of footprint, one equally symbolic and full of meaning to those concerned about environmental protection.

If asked who had the bigger "footprint" - an adult female living somewhere in the developing world, or your average eight-year-old American child - most would select the adult female. Now, insert the word "ecological" in front of "footprint" and repeat the question. The answer may surprise.

The concept of an "ecological footprint" turns out to be an almost intuitive measure of the impact of individuals or societies on nature. It provides a simple yet elegant accounting tool that can help us see the impact of human consumption patterns on the earth. What we do about this information, of course, is the essence of a much larger policy debate.

As we live out our lives, we consume resources and discard wastes. Each bit of consumption and generation of waste demands a certain amount of productive land and water. The amount of productive land and water needed to support the production of resources we consume and absorb the wastes we create can be considered our ecological footprint.

Individuals, households, cities, regions, nations - all can be measured as to their ecological footprint.

In their compelling book, **Our Ecological Footprint**, William Rees and Mathis Wackernagel lay out the approach that is changing the way many look at broad issues of sustainability, ecological carrying capacity, environmental protection, and even social justice. The authors take us through the number crunching and data sources used to calculate footprints for us, our cities, and our nations. For Western societies, the findings are less than comforting.

Here, in a nutshell, is "footprint" analysis applied to the world in which we live:

The ecologically productive land of the world now totals some 3.6 acres for each of the 5.9 billion people now alive. The average North American lifestyle requires almost 10 acres of ecologically productive lands to supply its resources and absorb its wastes. Thus, the ecological demands of average citizens in wealthy countries exceed global per capita supply of resources by a factor of nearly three. Someone, lots of someones, somewhere are going without.

Said another way, if everyone currently alive were to consume resources and generate wastes at the pace of the average citizen in the U.S. (or Canada, or western Europe, or Japan) we would need three planets of ecologically productive lands.

This projection assumes that there will be no improvements in either resource use efficiency or waste elimination techniques. However, we know that improvements in both are happening. The big question is whether they are happening fast enough.

It is, of course, in the inefficiency of resource production that wastes are created, our "environmental" problems manifested, and the Environmental Protection Agency's mission defined. But if we are not looking hard at how and where our "footprint" is being placed, we are missing the chance to do something about those inefficiencies.

When we use the ecological footprint concept to measure the resource use and waste generation of the average North American, it becomes clear that via trade and technology we have "appropriated" the ecological capacity of large areas outside our own national boundaries. We have, in fact, exported much of our "footprint." Responsibility for a good deal of the world's environmental problems starts to hit home.

So where do we go with this? Some would prefer to start with that hypothetical adult female in the developing world whose fecundity promises to add billions more footprints to the earth's surface in the coming decades. The accounting tool of ecological footprints suggests, however, that the place to begin is with the resource consuming, waste generating "average" inhabitant of North America, western Europe, and Japan.

Limiting the number of poor people in distant countries may make for popular policy, but it does little about the root cause of our environmental and related socio-economic problems. The two ounces of rice that a billion of our poorest neighbors call their "daily bread" leaves a rather transparent ecological footprint. Those one billion could "go away" tomorrow, and our global ecological unraveling would go on unabated.

The answer to our earlier question? It is the eight-year-old child (not to mention his parents, neighbors, and friends) who now has the "Big Feet."

[David Schaller is the sustainable development expert in the Denver Regional Office of EPA.]

FOR VERIFICATION: [David Schaller](#),
303-312-6146 (day)
303-756-8573 (evening)



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**Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
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Letter to Rocky Mountain News Re: Breckenridge Ski Area Expansion

Denver Rocky Mountain News
Editorial Staff
January 21, 1999

Dear Editorial Staff:

I am moved to respond to an editorial appearing in the January 16 edition of the Rocky Mountain News, concerning the proposed expansion of Peak 7 at the Breckenridge Ski Area. Your piece described EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers as stepping in to bring that project to a halt. I assure you that is not EPA's intent, nor do I believe it is the intent of the Corps of Engineers.

As you may know, Congress has charged our agencies with responsibility for assuring that such projects on our nation's lands are protective of all of the environment, not just the environment on public land. It would be unfortunate indeed, if private interests were allowed to use public land in a way that unduly degraded other, non-public land.

It is true that the Breckenridge expansion was anticipated almost two decades ago, but even then it was understood that any further development would have to be protective of the environment. And it was understood that the environmental agencies and the public would take a close look at the anticipated impacts when the specific project was proposed. That time has come, and we will do everything we can to ensure that Vail Associates' project goes forward, but in a way that is compatible with good environmental practice.

Though the development of Peak 7 will directly impact less than an acre of wetlands on the ski area, cutting trees for ski runs and base area development could impact water flow into the Cucumber Gulch wetlands complex. Those wetlands are described by the Corps of Engineers as "among the highest quality wetlands in Summit County."

Congress has wisely drafted our laws such that all environmental consequences of projects on public land are fully evaluated before significant and potentially irrevocable decisions are made. Reasonable people would anticipate that a ski area expansion will inevitably lead to development around that expansion. Therefore, environmental impacts associated with a proposed expansion that are easily foreseeable should be taken into account.

This does not mean EPA wishes to stop the Breckenridge project. Rather, EPA wishes to ensure that environmental impacts are disclosed to the public and decision makers. In this way, the project may proceed in as environmentally

sound manner as possible. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

William Yellowtail
Regional Administrator

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EPA, DOJ settle Loveland, CO tank violations for \$7,250

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - January 20, 1999

MICHELLE MARCU 303 312 6921
MIKE RISNER 303 312 6890
RICH LATHROP 800 227 8917 x6780

DENVER - - The U.S. Department of Justice has settled a civil case on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency against a Loveland gas station for \$7,250 for violations of underground storage tank (UST) regulations.

The settlement resolves a complaint against a Coastal Mart, Inc. station at 805 North Lincoln Street in Loveland. EPA alleged that Coastal failed to take appropriate actions when their own monitoring results showed that "releases" may have occurred. Leaks from underground tanks can contaminate soil, groundwater and surface water and create fire and explosion hazards.

In Colorado, tank owners must report suspected releases to the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Oil Inspection Section within 24 hours and must investigate suspected releases within seven days. EPA said Coastal had suspected releases in January and March of 1997 but followed up weeks later in one case; months later in another.

Mike Risner, EPA's legal enforcement director in Denver said, "Tank owners and operators should realize that EPA and DOJ are enforcing the UST regulations. This is especially important since we just passed the December 22 deadline when tank upgrade rules went into effect." Risner noted the Coastal case was underway for nearly two years and was not directly connected to the December 22 deadline.

By that date, owners or operators of tanks installed before December 22, **1988** must have upgraded their tanks to prevent spills, overfills and corrosion, replaced tanks with new systems that meet standards or properly closed their tanks. Owners of uncorrected tanks face penalties of up to \$11,000 a day per tank and cleanup costs if their tanks have leaked.

The UST rules were designed to prevent, detect and clean up releases from underground tanks containing petroleum products or certain hazardous substances. EPA has been working with industry for the last ten years to inform tank owners of their responsibilities and the 1998 deadline.

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Proposed NPL Listing of Vasquez Blvd. & I-70 Site

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - January 15, 1999

David Williams EPA 303/312-6757
Ted Fellman EPA 303/312-6119
Bonnie Lavelle EPA 303/902-3049

DENVER - - Tuesday the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will propose adding an area near Vasquez Boulevard and I-70 in Denver, to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites. This announcement begins a sixty day period during which citizens may send EPA their comments on the proposed listing.

The National Priorities List (NPL) is a published list of U.S. hazardous waste sites that are eligible for extensive, long-term cleanup under the Superfund program. Listing on the NPL makes the site eligible to receive federal funds for cleanup while EPA seeks to recover costs from the responsible parties. Placing the site on the NPL also allows EPA to use Superfund money for cleanup when there are no responsible parties who can pay for the work.

The Vasquez Boulevard and I-70 study area in northeast Denver includes all or portions of the Elyria, Swansea, Cole, Clayton and South Globeville neighborhoods. Historically, this area was a major smelting center for the Rocky Mountain West. Three smelting plants operated in the area from the 1870's through the 1950's, refining gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, and cadmium.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and EPA sampled soil in residential yards in these neighborhoods to determine if arsenic, cadmium and lead residues from historic smelting operations posed a potential threat to the health of the community. Sampling results revealed elevated lead and arsenic concentrations in some yards.

In the fall of 1998 EPA removed soil from 19 residential properties contaminated with very high levels of arsenic in order to address immediate health threats. EPA believes the remaining lead and arsenic contamination in some yards may pose a risk to children and other sensitive individuals. The potential problem is serious enough to warrant federal Superfund involvement. Representatives of the affected neighborhoods, CDPHE and City and County of Denver are working with EPA to identify cleanup options.

Listing of this site on the NPL ensures EPA immediate access to cleanup funding through the Superfund program. Listing also guarantees the public an opportunity to participate in cleanup decisions.

Information that EPA used to document the proposed listing of the site is available at:

U. S. EPA Records Center
999 18th St., 5th Floor
Denver, CO 80202-2466
Tel: 303-312-6473

More limited information is available at:

Valdez-Perry Library
4690 Vine Street
Denver, CO 80216
Tel: 303-295-4302

Cross Community Coalition
2332 E. 46th Ave.
Denver, CO 80216
Tel: 303-292-3203

People interested in commenting on the proposed NPL listing should send the original comments and three copies to:

Docket Coordinator,
Headquarters U.S. EPA; CERCLA Docket Office (5201G)
401 M Street SW
Washington, DC 20460
703/603-9232

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EPA Offering Two FREE Toxics Release Inventory Workshops In Salt Lake City

RELEASE AT WILL - January 13, 1999

Joyel Dhieux EPA 303/312-6447
Jack Salter EPA 303/312-6026
Vaughn Whatley EPA 303/312-6603

DENVER - - Industries in Utah make news each year when their annual Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) reports are made public. These reports, required under the [Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act \(EPCRA\)](#), allow EPA, States, Tribes and communities to monitor amounts and types of pollutants released into the environment, to identify chemical release permit violations and to gauge a facility's pollution-prevention progress and waste-management activities.

The Agency recently expanded the number of industrial sectors that must annually report. Businesses in the newly added sectors must begin reporting their toxic releases in 1999. To help businesses meet their reporting obligations, EPA is offering **two separate FREE workshops** in Salt Lake City. One workshop is aimed at industries within the new sectors and will explain the TRI program and its compliance and reporting rules. The second workshop targets those businesses in sectors EPA has required TRI reports from in years past.

WHO/WHEN:

Workshop #1 - - *Tuesday, March 9, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.* Limited to representatives from the manufacturing industries with activities that are listed under:

- Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes 2000 - 3999. These codes include the following industrial sectors: Food, Tobacco, Textiles, Apparel, Lumber & Wood, Furniture, Paper, Printing & Publishing, Chemicals, Petroleum & Coal, Rubber & Plastics, Leather, Stone, Clay and Glass, Primary Metals, Fabricated Metals, Machinery (excluding electrical), Electrical and Electronic Equipment, Transportation Equipment, Instruments, Miscellaneous Manufacturing, etc.

Workshop #2 - - Wednesday, March 10, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For representatives of facilities that fall under the **NEWLY added SIC codes:**

- 10 - metal mining facilities (with the exception of codes 1011, 1081 and 1094);
- 12 - coal mining facilities (except for 1241);
- 4911 and 4939 - electric utilities (limited to facilities that burn coal and/or oil to generate electrical power that is later sold);
- 4953 - waste facilities (limited to facilities regulated under RCRA subtitle C); and
- 5169 and 5171 or 7389 - chemical distributors, petroleum bulk storage facilities and solvent recovery facilities (limited to businesses primarily engaged in solvent recovery services on a contract or fee basis).

WHAT: Participants will learn:

- how, when and what to report.
- how to complete EPA's Form R.
- about TRI chemicals that are subject to reporting requirements.
- EPCRA rules, definitions and exemptions.
- about pollution prevention and source waste reduction.
- about the Toxic Release Inventory database and related reporting software.

WHERE: In Salt Lake City at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ). Located at 168 North 1950 West; in room 101. UDEQ's phone number is: 801/536-4100.

WHY: Two years ago, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a rule that expands by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to publicly report on their waste activities and the amounts of toxic chemicals they release to the air, water and land in communities across the country. Beginning in 1998, the new rule required about 6,100 new facilities, in seven industrial sectors, to begin gathering data on their annual toxic releases. Those figures are due to EPA by July 1, 1999. With the addition of the new industrial sectors, a total of more than 31,000 facilities will publicly report their toxic emissions. Businesses failing to properly report their releases face costly penalties.

WHAT ELSE: Space is limited and participants must register for a workshop in advance. Those attending the workshop should bring a calculator, pen and paper to the session. Transportation and lodging are the participants' responsibility.

For more details or to register,
call Joyel Dhieux at 303/312-6447 by Email at dhieux.joyel@epa.gov
or Jack Salter at 303/312-6026 or by Email at salter.jack@epa.gov
or call toll free at 800/227-8917 (Ext. 6447 or 6026).

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Colorado, Montana, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

EPA Offering Two FREE Toxics Release Inventory Workshops In Denver

RELEASE AT WILL - January 13, 1999

Joyel Dhieux EPA 303/312-6447
Jack Salter EPA 303/312-6026
Vaughn Whatley EPA 303/312-6603

DENVER - - Industries in Colorado make news each year when their annual Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) reports are made public. These reports, required under the [Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act \(EPCRA\)](#), allow EPA, States, Tribes and communities to monitor amounts and types of pollutants released into the environment, to identify chemical release permit violations and to gauge a facility's pollution-prevention progress and waste-management activities.

The Agency recently expanded the number of industrial sectors that must annually report. Businesses in the newly added sectors must begin reporting their toxic releases in 1999. To help businesses meet their reporting obligations, EPA is offering **two separate FREE workshops** in Denver. One workshop is aimed at industries within the new sectors and will explain the TRI program and its compliance and reporting rules. The second workshop targets those businesses in sectors EPA has required TRI reports from in years past.

WHO/WHEN:

Workshop #1 - *Tuesday, February 2, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.* Limited to representatives from the manufacturing industries with activities that are listed under:

- o Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes 2000 - 3999. These codes include the following industrial sectors: Food, Tobacco, Textiles, Apparel, Lumber & Wood, Furniture, Paper, Printing & Publishing, Chemicals, Petroleum & Coal, Rubber & Plastics, Leather, Stone, Clay and Glass, Primary Metals, Fabricated Metals, Machinery (excluding electrical), Electrical and Electronic Equipment, Transportation Equipment, Instruments, Miscellaneous Manufacturing, etc.

Workshop #2 - - Wednesday, February 3, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For representatives of facilities that fall under the **NEWLY added SIC codes:**

- 10 - metal mining facilities (with the exception of codes 1011, 1081 and 1094);
- 12 - coal mining facilities (except for 1241);
- 4911 and 4939 - electric utilities (limited to facilities that burn coal and/or oil to generate electrical power that is later sold);
- 4953 - waste facilities (limited to facilities regulated under RCRA subtitle C); and
- 5169 and 5171 or 7389 - chemical distributors, petroleum bulk storage facilities and solvent recovery facilities (limited to businesses primarily engaged in solvent recovery services on a contract or fee basis).

WHAT: Participants will learn:

- how, when and what to report.
- how to complete EPA's Form R.
- about TRI chemicals that are subject to reporting requirements.
- EPCRA rules, definitions and exemptions.
- about pollution prevention and source waste reduction.
- about the Toxic Release Inventory database and related reporting software.

WHERE: Downtown Denver at the EPA Conference Center. Located at 999 18th Street, second floor promenade. The Conference Center's phone number: 303/312- 7078.

WHY: Two years ago, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a rule that expands by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to publicly report on their waste activities and the amounts of toxic chemicals they release to the air, water and land in communities across the country. Beginning in 1998, the new rule required about 6,100 new facilities, in seven industrial sectors, to begin gathering data on their annual toxic releases. Those figures are due to EPA by July 1, 1999. With the addition of the new industrial sectors, a total of more than 31,000 facilities will publicly report their toxic emissions. Businesses failing to properly report their releases face costly penalties.

WHAT ELSE: Space is limited and participants must register for a workshop in advance. Those attending the workshop should bring a calculator, pen and paper to the session. Transportation and lodging are the participants' responsibility.

For more details or to register,
call Joyel Dhieux at 303/312-6447 by Email at dhieux.joyel@epa.gov
or Jack Salter at 303/312-6026 or by Email at salter.jack@epa.gov
or call toll free at 800/227-8917 (Ext. 6447 or 6026).

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EPA rates the proposed Legacy Parkway project environmentally unsatisfactory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - January 6, 1999

Dave Ruiter 303 312 6794
Cindy Cody 303 312 6228
Jody Ostendorf 303 312 7814

Denver - - Citing extensive potential damage to regionally and nationally important wetlands and other environmental impacts, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today it has rated the proposed Legacy Parkway project north of Salt Lake City environmentally unsatisfactory.

EPA has been working with the project's lead, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), and other agencies in reviewing the project and attempting to reduce or eliminate the environmental impacts.

After careful review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), EPA gave the proposed westernmost route, which is the locally preferred alternative, a rating of EU-3. EU-3 means "Environmentally Unsatisfactory," indicating that the DEIS lacks key information about the project and fails to adequately consider alternatives.

The other three proposed highway routes in the DEIS could also damage the environment and, likewise, were rated environmentally unsatisfactory.

EPA has repeatedly voiced concerns over the amount and quality of wetlands that would be destroyed by this highway project. EPA believes any proposed project should consider alternatives that do not destroy wetlands.

According to information supplied by project planners, the proposed highway would result in the immediate loss of 100-200 acres of high-quality wetlands. That estimate does not include the indirect and cumulative impacts on wetlands that would be destroyed by urban growth and development along the new corridor.

With this rating, EPA recommends that UDOT conduct a new analysis of less environmentally damaging alternatives, followed by another public comment period.

EPA also recommended that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deny the Clean Water Act 404 wetlands permit required to fill those wetlands.

Local and national public interest groups have voiced similar concerns about the adverse environmental impacts of the proposed project.

EPA will continue to work with UDOT and other agencies to find an environmentally sound solution to the Salt Lake Valley's projected transportation needs.

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Regional Activities and Information

EPA announces \$73.1 million in national brownfields grants in 37 states and seven tribal communities

Please see <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/news/pr062003.htm> for more information. A total of \$3 million was awarded to states and tribes within Region 8. Visit the [list of brownfields grants awarded by EPA Region](#).

National Consumer Awareness Campaign Launched on Vermiculite Insulation Used in Some Home Attics

The EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) have launched a national consumer awareness campaign to provide homeowners with important information on vermiculite attic insulation, which may contain asbestos. [View the entire article](#).

Watershed group to receive \$600,000 to restore and protect land damaged by the Hayman fire

Assistant Regional Administrator Max Dodson presented a plaque to the Coalition for the Upper South Platte Sunday June 8th in Lake George, CO as the first anniversary of the Hayman fire was observed. The group was selected for an [EPA National Watershed Initiative](#)



grant through a competitive national process. The money will be used to rehabilitate fire-damaged areas that are impacting water quality, and to protect and restore streams that are still relatively pristine.

Whitman, proud of accomplishments as she prepares to return home to New Jersey, resigns as

Key Topics -

[Air](#), [Brownfields](#),
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[Water](#)

News Releases

[06/30/2003 - EPA issues National and Colorado toxic chemical release report for 2001](#)

[06/30/2003 - EPA issues National and North Dakota toxic chemical release report for 2001](#)

[06/30/2003 - EPA issues National and Utah toxic chemical release report for 2001](#)

[06/30/2003 - EPA issues National and South Dakota toxic chemical release report for 2001](#)

[06/30/2003 - EPA issues National and Wyoming toxic chemical release report for 2001](#)

[06/30/2003 - EPA issues National and Montana toxic chemical release report for 2001](#)

[06/26/2003 - EPA offers share of \\$5 million grant for clean school bus programs - Application deadline August 1](#)

[06/12/2003 - Great Plains Restoration Council earns 2003 Friend of the EPA Award](#)

Administrator of EPA, effective June 27, 2003

Washington, D.C. (May 21, 2003) — Yesterday afternoon, EPA Administrator Christie Whitman met with President Bush at the White House and tendered her resignation as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, effective June 27, 2003.

[Read the text of Administrator Whitman's resignation letter](#)

Notice of request for initial proposals to be funded from the indoor air quality (IAQ) allocation

The EPA is soliciting Initial Proposals for the following IAQ areas: to implement EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools Program, to support environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) education and to implement asthma education and awareness projects. Proposals must be **postmarked by June 27, 2003**. [View the Notice of Request in its entirety](#).

Air Quality Standards - State Implementation Plans (SIPs)

[EPA-approved SIP regulations for Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming are now available](#). State SIPs assure that the [National Ambient Air Quality Standards \(NAAQS\)](#) are protected. EPA-approved standards for Utah will be available in the future.

[06/11/2003 - Oglala Sioux Tribe environmental director earns EPA 2003 Frank DeCouteau Award](#)

[06/09/2003 - Conservation District director earns EPA Environmental Achievement Award](#)

[06/09/2003 - Littleton Public School District to receive EPA Environmental Achievement Award](#)

[06/05/2003 - EPA cites five Colorado growers for failing to comply with agricultural worker protection regulation](#)

[06/05/2003 - EPA orders Rico mining company to pay for pollution cleanup](#)

[06/04/2003 - EPA's role in Double Cabin water shutdown](#)

[06/03/2003 - EPA applauds companies for voluntary cleanup in Commerce City](#)

[05/29/2003 - EPA applauds 147 companies for voluntary cleanup of abandoned Commerce City facility](#)

[05/29/2003 - EPA holds public meetings on the new proposed cleanup plan for the Vasquez Blvd. and I-70 Superfund site](#)

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[EPA Headquarter's News](#)

December

- 12/08/98 [Students and teacher awarded for environmental education initiatives](#)
- 12/03/98 [Environmental Justice Grants Training Workshop: Pueblo, CO](#)
- 12/02/98 [EPA Seeks to Warn Public of Lead-Paint Risk in Housing](#)
- 12/01/98 [EPA sponsors public meeting \(12/14/98\) to discuss animal waste](#)

November

- 11/02/98 [EPA Announces Competition for \\$200,000 Brownfields Grants](#)

October

- 10/29/98 [EPA sponsors public meeting to discuss drinking water data quality](#)
- 10/16/98 [EPA, Ft. Collins Settle Audit Issues](#)
- 10/09/98 [Whatley Ranch Owners Agree to Restore Damaged Wetlands](#)
- 10/07/98 [Routine Quarterly Ground-water Monitoring at Shattuck Superfund Site](#)
- 10/01/98 [Questions & Answers on Shattuck Superfund Site](#)

September

- 09/25/98 [District, Contractor pay Fine for Wetlands Violations](#)
- 09/23/98 [Amoco Agrees to Settlement at Casper Refinery](#)
- 09/23/98 [EPA Applauds Amoco/WDEQ Casper Refinery Settlement](#)
- 09/23/98 [EPA - CDPHE - DENVER Meeting on Shattuck Sampling](#)
- 09/18/98 [EPA to Sample at Shattuck Site](#)
- 09/17/98 [EPA Responds to City of Denver's Data on Shattuck](#)
- 09/11/98 [EPA Responds to Environmental Justice Charge](#)

July & August

- 08/12/98 [Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Westminster, CO](#)
- 08/12/98 [Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Kimball, SD](#)
- 08/12/98 [Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Sioux Falls, SD](#)
- 07/21/98 [Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Florence, CO](#)
- 07/21/98 [Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Greeley, CO](#)

07/21/98 [Regional Treatment Plant Receives EPA Award - Salt Lake City, UT](#)

August

08/20/98 [Yellowtail Guest Opinion on Colorado "self-audit" law](#)

08/19/98 [PCB Rules to Change; Meeting Set](#)

08/14/98 [EPA, Denver-area Refineries Settle Waste Violations](#)

08/12/98 Released in Colorado [Perchlorate Forums Will be Held in Phoenix and Salt Lake City](#)

08/12/98 Released in North Dakota [Perchlorate Forums Will be Held in Phoenix and Salt Lake City](#)

08/12/98 Released in Utah [A Perchlorate Forum Will be Held in Salt Lake City](#)

08/12/98 Released in Wyoming [Perchlorate Forums Will be Held in Phoenix and Salt Lake City](#)

July

07/23/98 [EPA Presents Environmental Awards To Colorado Citizens and Groups](#)

07/23/98 [EPA Presents Environmental Awards To Montana Citizens and Groups](#)

07/23/98 [EPA Presents Environmental Awards To North Dakota Citizens and Groups](#)

07/22/98 [EPA Presents Environmental Awards To Wyoming Citizens and Groups](#)

07/22/98 [EPA Presents Environmental Awards To Utah Citizens and Groups](#)

07/22/98 [EPA Presents Environmental Awards To South Dakota Citizens and Groups](#)

07/09/98 [The last truck of radioactive and hazardous waste will leave the RAMP Industries Site on July 10!](#)

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